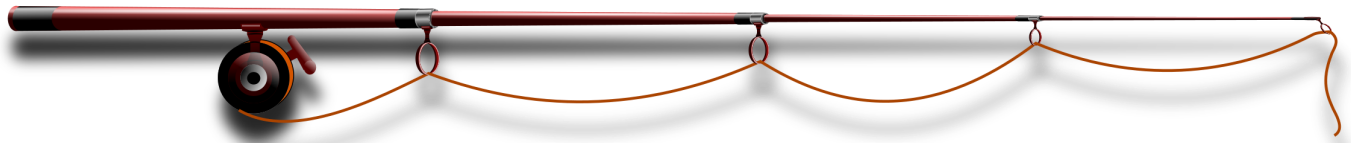


The Flyline



A publication of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

October 2017

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President's Message

by Randy Buchanan

Twenty years ago, give or take one or two years, when I became President of MLTU, I asked Gary Cooper if he would be the editor of our newsletter, The Flyline and he accepted the position. Gary is the person responsible for my involvement with the local chapter; needless to say, he and I have been together for a few years. This past summer, Gary resigned as editor. Thank you, Gary, for your many years of keeping MLTU members informed.

As I have said many times, MLTU has a very good membership; we step up and get the job done. Missy Reckner has volunteered to become our new editor. Along with Missy, Brittany Fresch will be helping to produce a newsletter on time to keep our membership informed of current news and upcoming events. Missy and Brittany, thank you for stepping up.

Speaking of the membership that helped get the job done, I would like to say thank you to everyone who came out to help with our stream work projects. We improved the habitat on Howell's Run, Bens Creek and Potter Creek this year. All

projects were well attended and were completed in one or two days.

The fall season has arrived and planning for the next year is underway. Without a doubt, the banquet fundraiser is front and center and will be held March 24, 2018. Trout in the Classroom is an ongoing program with schools receiving their shipment of trout eggs in early November. You can help with TIC by attending a beer tasting dinner. Rizzo's Italian Restaurant and MLTU will be sponsoring a beer tasting and dinner on October 26, 2017 to benefit TIC. Rizzo's has been a longtime supporter of the chapter. Come out and enjoy some good food and good beer and help TIC.

Catch One!

Randy



Have you fished for years without seeing a trophy trout? Are you convinced that big trout don't exist in our hard-fished, eastern waters? Have you ever fished in November and December? Do you know what a redd looks like?

If you want to catch larger trout, you must fish for larger trout. You must learn to read water so that you know where to look for big fish. You must learn to be stealthy and be able to cast accurately. You must use flies which

might scare the average trout.

If you want to see large trout so that you can believe they exist, fish in November and December. Look for trout redds, large redds. Stand quietly at a distance from the redd and you may be treated to the sight of one or two very large trout. **Never**, and I mean **never**, fish for a trout on a redd. These fish are producing the next generation of fish for that

stream. To disturb them is something which no conscientious fisherman would do. Only a fish hog would disturb these trout.

Fish for large trout with large flies at other times of the year. Be patient and you will be rewarded. Don't forget to let the big ones go. The big ones produce the smaller trout you normally catch.

"Never fish for a trout on a redd."



Stories Invited

Surely you noticed this issue of The Flyline has a new look! That's because Brittany Fresch and I are taking over creation and distribution of MLTU's newsletter. Gary Cooper dutifully managed the newsletter for over 20 years and decided to give it up this summer. I don't know if Britt and I going to do this for 20 years, but we'll be working on it for the

foreseeable future!

We welcome your additions and suggestions as this morphs into a newsletter with a new feel, but classic segments like the President's Message and Gary's Natural Thoughts.

Newsletter submissions are due the Tuesday after the MLTU meeting in the months of March, June,

by Melissa Reckner

September, and December. The quarterly newsletter will be published by the following month.

Please email your stories, photos, event details, etc. to me at mreckner@kcstreamteam.org or you can call me at 814-444-2669. Thank you!

5 Rivers Program

by Kylie Hogan

As conservationists, we strive to protect our Earth's wildlife for many reasons. Whether it is for sustainability, recreation, or science-based research, the value of these natural resources is priceless. If we are to defend our coldwater reserves, we must extend our efforts and appeal to a younger, more diverse generation that will follow in the footsteps of our founders. To accomplish this goal, I have started the Costa 5 Rivers Program at the University of Pittsburgh at

Johnstown (UPJ) to recruit members for our local Mountain Laurel chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The 5 Rivers Program refers to the five dimensions of the club: conservation, fundraising, community outreach, Costa ambassadorship, and TU connection. The student members will work alongside our local chapter during litter pickups, stream improvement projects, and fundraising to ensure quality results. By connecting with organizations like Wounded Warriors or

hosting a family fly-fishing rodeo, we can encourage community members of all ages to get involved as well. After completing these five branches and becoming a Costa ambassador, the club will gain access to remarkable gear and networking opportunities. Without a doubt, extending MLTU to UPJ will greatly benefit the chapter by increasing diversity and raising awareness about our mission for coldwater conservation.

Beers for Trout

by Melissa Reckner

I thought that would get your attention! Now that I have it, I'd like to invite you to a Beer Tasting and buffet dinner at Rizzo's Restaurant in Windber on Thursday, October 26 at 6:00 PM. Proceeds will benefit our Trout in the Classroom fund. MLTU currently supports TIC at Berlin-Brothersvalley High, Bishop McCort High, Blacklick Valley High, Conemaugh Township Middle, Divine Mercy Catholic Academy (formerly St. Benedict), Forest Hills Middle, and Shade-Central City High Schools. I've already been in touch with these schools to ensure they are ready for the hundreds of brook trout eggs that will arrive in early November. Trout in the Classroom is a very popular program and a great way to introduce youth to the natural world and MLTU's work. I hope you can attend this event. I'm sure it'll be a fun evening and Rizzo's puts on a nice spread. You won't leave hungry! If you would like more info or to buy a ticket to reserve your spot, please contact Rizzo's at 814-467-7908. Tickets are \$65 each. Thank you!

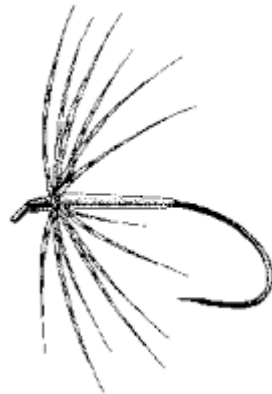


I Took the Fly-tying Class and Now I'm Hooked *By Kylie Hogan*

MLTU hosted a fly tying class that was one for the books... I mean, books! As an avid outdoor enthusiast, trout fishing is one of my favorite ways to get outdoors. I was always interested in learning how to fly fish, but as a broke college student enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ), I was already in a bit over my waders. Fortunately, MLTU was offering their free, six-week beginner fly tying class at Gander Mountain. It was open to the public and began around the same time my winter school blues loomed. I realized this was the perfect opportunity to get introduced to fly fishing, learn how to tie my own flies from the area's most experienced professionals, and have something I can look forward to each week to break up the monotonous school grind. Having missed the first week entirely, I was nervous that they would not accept me or that I would not be able to catch up with the rest of the class and almost decided not to go, but boy am I glad I did.

Upon arrival, I was greeted with friendly faces. Even though I was a week behind and arrived fashionably late to that day's class, they welcomed me with open arms. Each student was provided a syllabus with detailed steps on how to tie each fly so that we could practice at home.

They set me up with a vise and all the tools and material I would need. I took a seat beside one of the instructors, Dave Wright, and we got straight to work. He



caught me up by showing me the things I missed so far, like what each tool was called and what it was used for, how to use the vise, properly setting up the hook, tying on the thread, using the "pinch method" to tie on materials, and finishing with a whip knot. It was not even 30 minutes later that I was all caught up.

Throughout the next few weeks, Dave and the

"...there was a fly type for everyone in this class..."

other instructors, Rick and Randy Buchanan, Gary Cooper, and Andy Fresch, helped the class learn to tie multiple fly patterns that would imitate the macroinvertebrates found in our local trout streams. Some were streamer types, like the Woolly Bugger and Black Nosed Dace. Others were nymphs, like the Hare's Ear and the Red Squirrel nymphs. A few basic flies like the Black Ant and Crowe Beetle were easier for the younger kids in the class. My favorite type was the Adam's dry fly because they are more particular and I enjoy the challenge. Needless to say, there was a fly type for everyone in this class and the instructors made them so easy to learn. They were always patient with us, presented the steps slowly and in-order, and came to our rescue if we ever got stuck.

The last day of the class was a memorable one called "Pies and Flies." It took place on a Saturday morning and was essentially a fly tying pizza party. The instructors sat at the tables with all their materials and gave us the opportunity to ask them any final questions

continued under "Class" on page 5

about what we covered in class, as well as see them tie many types of advanced flies we did not cover. This day was open to all members of the community too, encouraging any beginner or experienced fly tier to come ask questions about basic or advanced patterns, tying techniques, brands of materials, local streams and events, and others of the sort. While enjoying my soda and many pieces of pizza, I had the luxury of observing Randy tie up his famous stonefly pattern. He took his time and proceeded to show us his customized way of creating this large, prehistoric creepy-crawly. After that, Dave showed us how to do some parachute patterns and Andy gifted me with a hellgrammite larva he tied.

As the day came to a close, I helped them clean up and was sad that it was all over. I had such a great time learning about all the wonders of fly fishing that I knew I could not leave that day without joining their organization. So, I turned in my membership application and have not stopped talking about it since. As the president of the UPJ Outdoors Club and working towards degrees in biology and education, I am eager to get my peers involved with local trout stockings,

stream improvement projects, and to teach them about why our mission for cold water conservation is so important. Therefore, I plan to implement Trout Unlimited 5 Rivers outreach program at UPJ to get as many students involved in this rewarding journey as possible.

Since joining, I was privileged to tie with MLTU at the Nature Works event held at the Bottle Works, as well as at the children's fishing rodeo held at Windber Sportsmen's Association. I even got lucky at their annual banquet and won many incredible prizes! In such a short amount of time I learned an immense amount of information about MLTU. Because of its members, beginner fly fishers like myself can really learn more about the impact we have on our local trout habitats, gain access to incredible gear (that is desperately needed for broke college students), form lifelong friendships, and have so much FUN! Joining this organization was one of the best decisions of my life and I highly encourage anyone who is passionate about the outdoors to get involved in as many ways as they can.

Cheesy Jokes

Q: Where does a fish keep its money?

A: In the River Bank!

Q: How do you communicate with a fish?

A: Drop it a line!

Soap Hollow Run Improvement *adapted from SCRIP newsletter*

The PA Fish and Boat Commission very recently added Soap Hollow Run, which flows through Greenhouse Park under the cover of knotweed, to its list of Class A Wild Trout Waters. In light of this, the Somerset Conservation District, in cooperation with the Conemaugh Township Supervisors, initiated an improvement project which has started with two work days to cut the Japanese knotweed that encompasses the stream. Volunteers from the Greater Johnstown Chamber of Commerce Leadership Initiative and MLTU assisted professionals from the Conservation District and Natural Biodiversity in a physical effort to cut back the knotweed before a spraying will occur. Provided funds are secured, the final phase of the project will consist of in-stream habitat improvement project structures and a riparian buffer planting of native plants that will shade out knotweed, keep the stream cool with the shade provided, and reduce soil erosion. This project will not only enhance and improve natural resources, but it will also improve the appearance of Greenhouse Park by creating a more visually attractive and functioning ecosystem. For more information about the project, contact the Somerset Conservation District at 814-445-4652 x5.

Winter Fly-tying Classes

by Gary Cooper

MLTU will once again offer beginner's fly tying classes this winter. The classes will be offered on the following dates: Saturdays - January 6, 13, 20, 27 and February 3 and 10 and Mondays - January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5 and 12. Saturday classes will be offered from 9 AM till 12 PM. Monday classes will be offered from 6:30 PM till 9:00 PM. Classes will take place at the Richland Community Building located at 322 Schoolhouse Road near UPJ. There is no charge for the class. This is an opportunity to learn from some of the best tiers in Pennsylvania. Don't miss out! If you would like to sign up for the course, fill out the following registration form and mail it to: Gary Cooper

Rear 704 Scalp Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Please Print

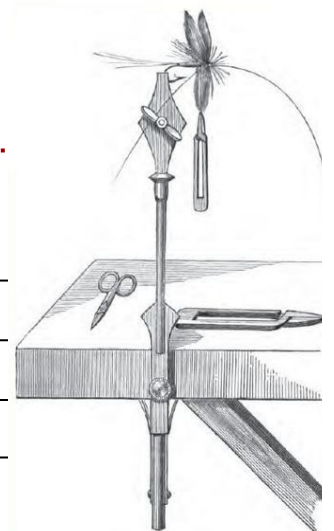
Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

(Circle One) Saturday Monday



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Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Membership Application and Renewal

If you are already a Trout Unlimited member, thank you! When it is time for you to renew your membership, you will receive a notice in the mail. You may renew by check, credit card, or online at www.tu.org.

If you are not a member, please join us! Visit www.tu.org and click "JOIN." National TU handles new memberships and so MLTU does not have applications anymore.

| | |
|---|------|
| Regular membership..... | \$35 |
| Family membership..... | \$50 |
| Stream Explorer membership (kids <12 yrs.)..... | \$12 |
| TU Teen membership (youth 13-18 yrs.)..... | \$14 |
| Additional membership types are listed on the TU website. | |

MLTU meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. The board of directors meet at 6:30 PM and the general membership meets immediately after at 7:00 PM. Until the end of the year, meetings will be held at East Hills Recreation. There are many activities in which you can become involved. Attend one of our meetings to learn more!

**Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited**

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Upcoming Events

- October 10—MLTU 6:30 PM Directors Meeting; 7:00 PM General Membership Meeting
- October 25—1st Banquet Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM Randy & Pat's House
- October 26—Beer Tasting for TIC, 6:00 PM, \$65, Rizzo's Restaurant
- November 5—Yellow Creek Coalition Meeting, 2:00 PM, Bowser's Cabin
- November 14—MLTU 6:30 PM Directors Meeting; 7:00 PM General Membership Meeting
- November 15—Banquet Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM Randy & Pat's House
- December 12—MLTU 6:30 PM Directors Meeting; 7:00 PM General Membership Meeting
- December 19—Newsletter submissions due

Dates for the winter Fly
Tying Classes are inside.

Save the date for MLTU's Annual
Spring Banquet: March 24, 2018!