

The Flyline



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President's Message

by Randy Buchanan

Due to the July 4th holiday and our meeting date falling on the same date, our meeting will be rescheduled to **July 11th**.

The past three months have been a very busy time for many of the chapter members. Starting in April, we held our banquet/fundraiser. I would like to express a big thank-you to Gary Cooper and all of the banquet committee for a great job. A grateful thank-you to all who made a donation and attended the banquet. The unselfishness of giving shows our concern for our cold water resources. The banquet was our most successful one to date, raising over \$20,000!

The success of our banquet was a great start for the second quarter of the year. The end of April into May found us busy with our Trout in the Classroom release day programs. Missy Reckner does a great job with these programs. This year, some new people came out to help at TIC; I hope they enjoyed being involved with the program as much as I have in the years past.

The chapter sponsors four stream/roadside litter clean-ups. Although it seems a thankless job and that most

people don't care, I would like to say thank-you to all who came out to help and to say that the areas looked better and were in better condition when we were done.

The third quarter of the year will find the chapter doing what we do best (weather permitting): stream habitat projects. Starting in July, the first ever project on Soap Hollow Run, a Class A wild trout stream flowing through Greenhouse Park, will start. Habitat work will be done on Howells Run in Ebensburg. This project is a continuation of a past project. In July, many of MLTU's members will help the Yellow Creek Coalition with a project on Yellow Creek in the Fly-fishing Only Section. August will find us on Potter Creek to do some repair work to a site that was done twenty-plus years ago. This project was funded by the Bedford County Conservation District. This funding allowed us to use our money for other projects.

If you are looking for something to do this summer besides mowing grass or going fishing, check out the project dates, show up, and give the chapter a hand.

Catch one!

Randy

The changing face of fly tying is always a fascinating thing to observe and to experiment with. The development of synthetics has added a whole new world of possibilities for practitioners of the art. We can add flash, synthetic streamer hair, new glues, crazy rubber legs, foam bodies and countless other things in hundreds of sizes, shapes and colors. UV has added a whole new dimension to what we think the fish perceive. All of these things are very nice and add spice to our patterns, but do they make them more effective? Do they make us better tiers?

I, for one, love the softness of natural furs and feathers. I like the way that wood duck creates a mottled pattern. I love tails made out of hackle. I love the movement of natural fur in the water. I can create most any effect that I want.

There isn't really much that is new in fly tying, just new forms of old ideas.

What it all comes down to are two fingers and two thumbs. With the thumb and finger of your two hands, you can create almost any fly your heart desires. It doesn't matter if you are old-school or if you like all the flash of the new patterns, what matters is that the fish like what you tie.



Banquet Reflections

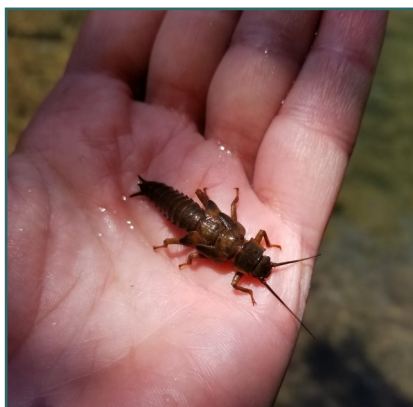
By Gary Cooper

Another banquet has gone. MLTU had its best banquet ever in 2019. We had more people and raised more money than ever before. That is a good thing for our work locally in cold-water conservation and enhancement. We actually had about 177 attend the banquet. The committee worked very hard in preparation for this year's event. Everything went well except that there were only five servers for food that evening. That will not happen again! Raffles went smoothly, lots of prizes were given away, and most people had a great time.

As I reflect, I am very grateful for all of you who attend. The money you spend helps us to raise the funds that fuel our summer work projects. We work with what you give us. It would be wrong to wish for more. Thanks ever so much for supporting MLTU and cold water! May there always be clean, cold water.

On behalf of MLTU and the Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association, thanks to the 15 volunteers who participated in our 10th annual litter cleanup in the Little Paint Creek watershed! This year, 1.5 tons of trash and 28 tires were removed from 2.1 miles of roadways, including all of Berwick Road and a small portion of State Route 160. In these ten years, MLTU and PCRWA have removed over 800 tires and well over 10 tons of trash from this little section of the watershed.

May 21st brought our Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Release Days to a close this spring. This year, MLTU was the conservation partner for and actively engaged with eight schools, including Divine Mercy Catholic Academy West and Shanksville Elementary School, which were both new to TIC this year. Thirty-three individuals, representing 16 state, county, and local agencies and organizations participated in this year's Release Days and contributed over 392 hours and 1,936 miles towards these events, and that doesn't include my time or mileage! By now, you likely know that last July I took a new job with the Brandywine Conservancy, which owns a preserve known as Penguin Court in Laughlintown at which I am the Program Manager, and I owe Brandywine a big "thank you" for allowing me to continue my involvement with TIC. These days are a lot of work and coordination, but to see children's enjoyment of the day, the smiles on their faces, and their fascination with our natural world makes the work worth it. These days couldn't happen without the volunteers and employees of these 16 entities who make time in their schedules to participate in TIC. To all of you who helped this year—THANK YOU! You're awesome.



Note: Because of the holiday, MLTU will not meet on July 4th, but will instead meet on July 11; same time and place.

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www.mtu.org

Upcoming Events

- July 11 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.
- July 13 & possibly 14* – Soap Hollow Run Work Day, 8 AM at Greenhouse Park
- July 18 – 1st Trout in the Classroom Summit, 9 AM–5 PM, Harrisburg. Registration required by 6/30.
- July 19 & 20 – Yellow Creek Coalition Work Day, 8 AM at Yellow Creek Coalition Parking Lot
- July 23 – Intro to Kayak Fishing, 5–9 PM, Public Recreation Area at the Que. Sponsored by PFBC & SCRIP. Registration required. Register at: <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/144123>
- August 1 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.
- August 16 & 17 – Potter Creek Work Day, 8 AM at site. *Contact Randy for directions.
- September 5 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.

Work days for the project on
Howells Run TBD.

