

The Flyline



A publication of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

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President's Message

by Randy Buchanan

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to everyone and here is hoping you are doing well as the old year ends. The new year is here, and I hope everyone is looking forward to some exciting events. Maybe you are already planning your first trip out west or, like me, hoping to get back to Penn's Creek after many years. The Chapter, too, is planning for the new year. The past few months, we were putting together the items needed for our fly-tying classes. You can find more information about the classes in this newsletter. Check out the dates and come out and have some fun by taking the classes or helping teach them.

January will find Gary and the banquet committee busy working to put together a nice evening on April 6th. If you think you may have a good idea to make the banquet better, please pass it along to Gary. I'm going to share an idea with you that I think will make the banquet better: when Gary mails you your tickets, buy two or three and bring some friends to the banquet. Remember, the banquet is our major fundraising event of the year.

This past year, all of the rain made it difficult to get our stream projects started. In the first few months of the new year, we will be planning dates for work-days to get those projects done, along with adding a new project along the way. These project workdays will take place during the summer months, but you do not have to wait till then to give the chapter a helping hand. Starting the last Saturday of March, the chapter will do four stream/roadside cleanup projects. We have been doing these projects for many years, and I know that the guys and gals that show-up each year would appreciate a little more help. You can find dates and times in this newsletter. You can also add the Nature-Works event at the Bottleworks in March and the fly-tiers reunion at Seven Springs in April to your calendar. Only the first four months of the year and so much to do!

Catch one!

Randy



Banquet on Horizon

By Gary Cooper

If you've ever been to an MLTU meeting, you know that Randy always closes the meeting by saying, "Alright, get out your calendars and pencils. I've got some dates to go over." Well, I've only got one date to talk about: April 6, 2019 (a Saturday) is the date of MLTU's spring banquet, the chapter's primary fundraising event of the year. Mark this date down now! You're not getting another notice.

We are busy planning another great event. The only thing we need to make it a success is you. We would like to encourage you to attend. We would like to see ladies, younger members, older members, regulars, and irregulars. In short, if you are interested in cold, clean water, please show up. You see, it is this banquet that raises the funds that enable us to do our on-stream projects in the summer.

What should you expect when you get there? There will be all sorts of prizes, baskets, jewelry, and special prizes. Take your time and browse. Dinner will be tasty, and the awards program will be short. We will be chancing off a wide variety of prizes including fine dining. We accept cash or credit cards for your convenience. Please be generous. We like to work on streams.

We'll be glad to see our regulars, but we want to stress that those of you who have never attended a banquet before should come and help us out. Come on! It's only one night. And while you're at it, bring several friends, girlfriends, hangers-on, and people with nothing else to do. Bring money too!

Let's all have a great banquet. Be there!



Tickets Please!

By Gary Cooper

Since I am not a conductor on a train, I will just say that getting tickets for the MLTU spring banquet is easy. If you are in need of tickets, simply call me up and say, "Tickets, please!" Most of you will receive your tickets in the mail. Some of you may require extra tickets, however. (We hope there are many of you who do.) Since I am your ticket agent, call me at 814-266-4763, tell me how many tickets you need, and I will send them right out to you. Each ticket costs thirty-five dollars, so make sure that you do not lose this article. Cut it out and post it on your refrigerator. Mark the number on your phone. Tell Siri to remind you. Get those tickets early and often. My name is Gary Cooper, and I've got your tickets.



Each winter, Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited offers beginners fly tying courses to the public at no charge. On Saturday mornings and Monday evenings, students and instructors gather at the Richland Municipal Building to instruct or learn the art of fly tying. Fur and feathers fly as the beginners take the first steps to a lifetime of enjoyment. For many, this may be just a passing flirtation, but for others, fly tying may lead to a lifetime of fishing and conservation. In addition, these lucky ones will be scratching the surface of a fascinating and relaxing hobby which they can pursue all their lives. Some will become members of Trout Unlimited. Others will fly fish happily. Everyone will have fun.



For me, I have never lost my enthusiasm for fly tying. Rarely a day goes by in the winter that I don't tie a few flies. I learn new tricks by experimenting or by watching others. I never stop learning, and each year I become a better fly tier. If you are a chapter member who ties flies, stop in at one of the classes. Watch and learn, ask questions, or join in to help the students. The instructors are very talented and helpful. If you know someone who wants to learn, tell them about the classes or bring them with you. They will be welcome.

Why do we tie flies? We tie flies to catch fish! Fly tying is a means to an end, which end being the protection of cold, clean water. Without it, neither the trout, nor we, will survive. Learn to tie flies; you won't regret it.

Join us, too, for the "Pies and Flies" Free Fly Tying and Pizza Party for members, students, and the public. It will be Saturday, February 9, 2019, Noon till whenever at the Richland Municipal Building."

Beginner's Fly Tying Classes Dates

Saturday Classes: January 5, 12, 19, 26 and February 2, 9
held from 9 AM – Noon

Monday Classes: January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11
held from 6:30 PM – 9 PM

All classes are held at the Richland Municipal Building

To enroll, call Andy Fresch at 814-525-5612 or Gary Cooper at 814-266-4763

Remembering Charlie Meck

By Len Lichvar

Pennsylvania lost a friend, author and conservationist with the passing of Charles R. Meck on September 18, 2018. Charlie Meck, 86, was one of the most prolific outdoor fishing writers of the modern era. He authored 15 books on fly fishing as well as countless magazine articles on the subject.

Born in Cressona, PA, Meck worked in continuing education at Penn State University for over 25 years. He became well connected in the fly fishing world of writers and celebrities, but he also connected with hundreds of lesser known local anglers around the state through his writing, speaking engagements, personal appearances and regular presentations at the Fly Fishing Shows across the country.

Among his many works was the book *Pennsylvania Trout Streams and their Hatches*. To gather the material and photos for the book, he crossed the state fishing with the not so famous local anglers so he could learn about the outstanding angling opportunities around the state. Charlie also wrote so the regular angler, regardless of skill, could understand and relate to the volumes of information he provided.



His writings contributed significantly to promoting the outstanding angling available in Pennsylvania to residents and visitors alike and no doubt increased eco-tourism and generated other outdoor related positive economic impacts throughout the Keystone state.

Charlie also wrote about water quality issues, such as the Stonycreek River in Somerset County in regard to its historic abandoned mine drainage (AMD) pollution and the work that was occurring to reduce that pollution to restore a fishery, when those efforts needed all the public support they could get. He also traversed Somerset County many times and all of southwestern Pennsylvania gathering information and knowledge on the waterways and fishing locations.

For his efforts, Charlie received the Confluence Award from the PFBC for promoting angling in the state and he received the Rising Trout Award from the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited in 2012 for his contributions to the sport of fly fishing and conservation. His contributions to the sport of fly fishing are also documented and recognized at the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum near Carlisle.

Although he spent the later years of his life in New York State to be close to his son, daughter and three grandchildren, his lasting impact in Pennsylvania will continue to be felt as long as flies are tied, lines are cast, and fish are caught.

Appointments

MLTU Board member Len Lichvar, of Boswell, has been appointed as Co-Chairman of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited's Trout Management Committee. The Committee develops the policies for the state council regarding management of stocked and wild trout. The Committee also serves as the connection between the state council and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) in regard to management options. Dave Rothrock, of Jersey Shore, is the other Co-Chairman.

Len has also been assigned to represent the PA State Council on the newly formed PFBC's Gill Lice Work Group. This group will have representatives from the fish production industry, PFBC, conservation organizations and other stakeholders and will attempt to formulate the best path forward to deal with and protect trout from this parasite that has been identified as potentially having a detrimental impact on the trout in the state.

Wondering what gill lice are? According to Jack Williams, a Trout Unlimited Senior Scientist, "Gill lice are a copepod parasite that attach to the gills and opercula of brook trout. The parasite, *Salmincola edwardsii*, only infects fish of the genus *Salvelinus* such as brook trout, and not rainbow or brown trout."

Gill lice can stress native brook trout and cause them to become more susceptible to other problems and stressors like increasing temperatures and invasive species.



Len Lichvar, left, accepts a framed print from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Executive Director John Arway and his fellow Commissioners, recognizing his 12 years of unpaid volunteer public service as a state appointed official serving as the District 4 Commissioner for the PFBC. Len's term expired in December 2017 and he continued to serve until a new Commissioner was approved by the State Senate on October 1, 2018. The ten member Commission serves as a governing board that oversees the direction, policies and management of the state agency.

Did we mention our annual banquet is coming up?!

Help us ensure a successful spring banquet! The following is a letter that may be presented to a favorite watering hole, restaurant, gas station, or other business to lure in some additional support! Remind these business owners and friends that they may be a prize sponsor for a \$150.00 donation or he/she may be a prize sponsor and receive two tickets to the banquet for \$200.00 (a \$20 savings on the tickets.) We would like to see more of our sponsors at the banquet, thus the second option. Simply fill out the form below and return it with a check made out to MLTU along with some ad copy, as the donor will receive a full page ad in our banquet program, as well as having his/her name displayed on a third-level prize. Thank you!



1745 Regal Drive
Johnstown, Pa. 15904
January 2018

Dear Business Owner and Friend:

The Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited needs your support! On April 6, 2019, we will hold our annual fund-raising banquet. Each year we solicit ads for our banquet program. You may purchase a quarter-page ad for \$25.00, a half-page ad for \$50.00, or a full-page ad for \$100.00. Your ads help to support our banquet and help us to raise funds for our work. They also showcase your business to those attending our banquet. All you have to do is fill out the form below, include a check made out to MLTU, send ad copy, and mail to:

Patricia Buchanan – Treasurer
1745 Regal Drive
Johnstown, Pa. 15904

What exactly does MLTU do? We are a cold-water, conservation organization. We work to conserve and enhance the cold-water resources in our area for the benefit of all people. The donation that you make will help us to continue this work. Thank you.

Name of Organization, Business, or
Individual _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Amount of Donation _____

Please include check and ad copy for the program.

Board of Directors

President

Randy Buchanan

1745 Regal Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904
(814) 467-4034

Vice-President

Andy Fresch

1051 Baumgardner Rd.
South Fork, PA 15904
(814) 525-5612

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417 Old Farm Lane
Johnstown, PA 15904

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1745 Regal Drive
Johnstown, PA 15904

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Eric Fabrizio
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Len Lichvar
Shane Rudnick
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Mountain
Laurel
Chapter of
Trout
Unlimited

MLTU meetings are held the first Thursday of every month.

The board of directors meet at 6:30 PM and
the general membership meets immediately after at 7:00 PM.

Meetings are held at the Richland Township Municipal Building, located at
322 Schoolhouse Road. We hope you can join us to learn more about our projects
and opportunities to become involved!

Outstanding Volunteer

By Len Lichvar

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited recently awarded Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited President, Randy Buchanan, its 2018 Doc Fritchey Award for outstanding volunteer coldwater conservation efforts. Buchanan, who resides in Richland Township, is originally from Wilbur in Somerset County, has guided the chapter's efforts in many stream improvement projects in Cambria, Somerset and Bedford Counties. Under Buchanan's leadership, the chapter has also been a key supporter of the abandoned mine drainage (AMD) abatement efforts in the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh River watersheds. The award was presented at the PA Council's state meeting in Bellefonte. Congratulations, Randy!



**Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited**

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Johnstown, PA 15904



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We're on the web!
www.mltu.org

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

- Jan. 3 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.
- Feb. 7 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.
- Feb. 9 – MLTU's "Pies and Flies," Noon at Richland Municipal Bldg.
- Mar. 2 – "NatureWorks" free, family event, 10 AM–2 PM, BottleWorks in Johnstown
- Mar. 7 – MLTU meeting 6:30 PM Directors, 7 PM Members at Richland Municipal Bldg.
- Mar. 12 – MLTU newsletter submission deadline for April – June, 5 PM –
Send information to Missy at mreckner@brandywine.org
- Mar. 30 – Picking Up Paint Creek Litter Cleanup – Volunteers to meet along Berwick
Road, 8:30 AM. Questions? Contact Missy.
- Mar. 31 – Bens Creek Litter Cleanup – Volunteers to meet at Jim & Jimmies along Rt. 985, 9 AM
- Apr. 5 – 9th Annual Fly Tiers Reunion, 6 PM, Sporting Clays Lodge at Seven Spring
Mountain Resort
- Apr. 20 – Yellow Creek Cleanup – Volunteers to meet at 8 AM for breakfast;
9 AM for the work day at the New Frontier Restaurant
- Apr. 27 – Shade Creek Road Cleanup – Volunteers to meet at 9 AM.

For information on any of the last three litter cleanups, contact Randy.

See page 3 for the dates of our Beginner Fly Tying Classes.