

# The Flyline



***A publication of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited***

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## **President's Message**

*by Randy Buchanan*

This past year or so has been trying for the Chapter and not just for our chapter, but for many others and for National TU as well. COVID restrictions made it difficult for your Chapter to function as we have in the past. Projects like stream habitat improvement, Trout in the Classroom, and even our annual fundraising banquet had to be cancelled. Admittedly, it is hard for a chapter to function when we depend on the money raised, but there were efforts made by the Chapter to keep the membership informed and involved. Like many chapters, MLTU held Zoom meetings during the winter months and - to all who know me - this is a new and challenging form of communication for a guy whose cell phone has a rotary dial!

Thank you, Missy, for getting our Zoom meetings up and running; good job!

During the summer months, we held meetings outdoors at Greenhouse Park, and this summer we will be holding our meetings at the Windber Recreation Park. Information for these meetings were found on our website, email blasts, and the newsletter. Jassim, who manages our website and is in the process of reworking the site, still does a good job of keeping things up to date.

Missy and Brittany put our quarterly newsletter together. They do a great job of getting it out on time. Anyone can submit an article for the newsletter to Missy Reckner for review and publication.

The Chapter has been involved with many local projects for over thirty years. These projects have been publicized in our newsletter and at times local newspapers. In the last few months, I have been asked by more than one member what the Chapter has been up to; when asked if they read their newsletter, I have been getting some sheepish looks. Come on people, come to our meetings and read your newsletter so you know what is going on! Maybe this is why the number of volunteers has been dropping off lately. The stream and roadside cleanups are done for this year and more help would have been nice. Thank you to everyone who did come out to help.

The next big thing is our banquet, with more information on that in this newsletter. Read it and come out and help!

Catch one!

*Randy*

After more than a year of not having a banquet, MLTU's banquet committee has finally decided that conditions are safe enough to hold banquets. Did you notice that I said banquets?

The 2021 banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown on **Saturday, September 11, 2021**.

That's not all the good news. The 2022 banquet will be held on **Saturday, April 2, 2022** also at the Holiday Inn in downtown Johnstown.

Okay, now for the details. Shortly, you will be receiving a ticket letter for the 2021 banquet.

I realize that many of you have already paid for the 2020 banquet, which was cancelled because of Covid 19. Not to fear. We have those records and all you will have to do is to fill out new stubs and send them in. Your tickets are already paid for. If you hadn't signed up for the 2020 banquet, you can fill out your tickets and send them in with a check. Tickets still cost thirty-five dollars each. If you got a refund for 2020, you'll have to fill out new stubs and send a check.

As usual, the doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the meal will be served around half past six.

We will have the normal selection of prizes to chance off. There will be baskets and restaurant prizes - something for everyone. A silent auction will take place. Let's have a big audience and make this a grand return for MLTU.

If you paid for 2020, but cannot make it on September 11, contact Pat Buchanan for a

refund. Pat may be reached at 1745 Regal Drive, Johnstown, PA 15904 or call her at 814-467-4034.

Banquet tickets for 2021 will be out in June. Tickets for the 2022 banquet will not be available until after the first of the year. You may solicit prizes for the September banquet or you may show up with a prize for the first level or the silent auction.

Let's get Mountain Laurel back on its feet and working hard to preserve clean, cold water! See you at the banquet.

While the pandemic made a lot of schools take a break from Trout in the Classroom, we anticipate many returning to raise brown trout fingerlings in a chilled, 55-gallon, classroom aquarium this fall.

In anticipation of Release Days 2022, MLTU applied for and received a \$473 grant from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited to purchase equipment and materials for these memorable field trips. Funds will help pay for new fly reels, kick nets, and macroinvertebrate identification guides.

Volunteers are always needed to assist with TIC Release Day activities. Some people teach fly casting, others lead water quality workshops, while some might demonstrate fly tying or even help students fish. If you'd like to learn more about TIC or volunteer to help with these field trips, please contact Missy Reckner at [mreckner@brandywine.org](mailto:mreckner@brandywine.org).

We thank PATU for awarding MLTU this grant and look forward to TIC.

This year's tickets for the Twelve Days of Christmas will be mailed in early October.

As usual, the cost of a ticket is \$5.00 and each ticket contains two numbers. The winning numbers will be based upon the winning number in the seven-o'clock drawing of the Pennsylvania Lottery daily number from December first through the twelfth 2021. We sell 500 tickets, and we like to sell all of them.



This year we no longer have the availability of our best ticket seller, Dave Wright. Yes, Dave is still with us. He just no longer works at the bowling alley.

Many of our members live in Somerset County. If any of you would like to receive five tickets to sell, let Pat Buchanan know, and we will send them right out to you. Let's make this ticket sale a success. Sell and buy these tickets.

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.*

*- Elizabeth Andrew*

Thank you to the five MLTU members and two Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association members who participated in this year's litter cleanup in the Little Paint Creek watershed. Over 50 bags of trash, about 9 tires, and other odds-n-ends were collected from 1.6 miles of Berwick Road, as part of this Keep PA Beautiful event, which was canceled last year because of Covid. Thanks also to Randy's Bilo in Windber for donating the day's refreshments.



Left to right: Richard Wargo, Chris Mahla, Vincent Paczek, Tony Lardieri, Rickie Buchanan, and Dave Maher pose with some of the litter collected along Berwick Road. Photos by Melissa Reckner.



## One Fly I Wouldn't Be Without

by Gary Cooper

"Plop," the small black fly splashed down within inches of the bank. There, a red and black spotted brown trout finned lazily in the slack flow. Sensing the vibration through its lateral line, the trout pivoted sharply and surged downstream leaving a V-shaped wave in the water. The vanishing morsel disappeared suddenly in a slashing rise form. As the brownie turned back upstream to resume its normal feeding lie, a well concealed angler raised his rod tip smartly setting the hook. The brown shot toward deeper water shaking its head trying to dislodge the stinging hook lodged in its jaw.



Anyone who fishes terrestrials can certainly identify with the scenario above. The fly could have been an ant, a cricket, or a hopper, but the most deadly fly for mid-day fishing is the venerable, size 12 or 14 Crowe Beetle. Invented by John Crowe, a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. It appears in his book, *The Book of Trout Lore*, published in 1947. Like Mr. Crowe I wouldn't want to be without this fly from mid-April until the end of September.

I have caught literally thousands of trout on Crowe Beetles over the years. Why is this fly so effective? I believe it is because it looks like a beetle and because it plops. The noise and vibrations caused by the plop are hard to ignore, particularly by bank feeding brown trout. I also think the fly is versatile. It can be fished floating in the film or sunk behind a split shot or two. It may be fished along the banks or cast into a run. You see, beetles drown and are found everywhere in the stream.

Talk about an easy fly to tie! A hook, black thread, and black deer hair are all that you need. One drawback is that the fly shreds easily. If you have a mangled beetle, cut it off and tie on a new fly. Don't throw the old fly away. Take it home, cut off the shredded deer hair, and tie a new beetle on the old hook. You can tie a dozen and a half beetles in an hour, maybe more. Also don't hesitate to tie these flies in different colors.

John Crowe was not an angler of fancy flies. His ties were simple but effective. He loved to fish the black beetle. I do too! Try one.

## MLTU to Once Again Hold Fly Tying Classes

The return of our popular winter fly tying classes is just around the corner. These classes are for beginners and are free to the public. MLTU is currently in the planning stages for these classes. As of yet, we are not certain of where we will be holding the classes. When we have secured a location, and have finalized the dates, we will let the public know. There should be more in the next issue of *The Flyline*.

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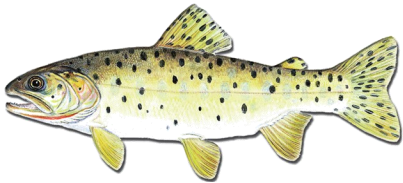
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## Trout Color Study

*by Melissa Reckner*



Penn State University researchers are seeking angler assistance for an interesting project. They want to compare the colors, patterns, sizes, and ultimately the genetics of wild brook and brown trout across the Commonwealth.

Researchers would like anglers to request a small, plastic “grey card” that you can hold next to your wild trout and then photograph the two together. Once you have Internet service, which might not be available where you are fishing - in the perfect setting, right? - submit your photos via the Survey123 application that you can download for free from your app store and answer a question or two about location and habitat. Organizers promise that your favorite fishing locations will not be revealed!

According to the project’s website - <https://sites.psu.edu/troutstudy> - this study kicked off in February and, as of May, researchers have mailed out over 1600 grey cards and have received over 500 pictures so far.

The website has more information and even has a map to show from which watersheds photos have been received.

This is a fun community science opportunity, and I hope MLTU members participate. Questions may be directed to Sara Mueller at [sjm5467@psu.edu](mailto:sjm5467@psu.edu).

If you would be okay just receiving MLTU’s newsletter electronically, please email Missy Reckner at [mreckner@brandywine.org](mailto:mreckner@brandywine.org), and she will try to ensure that you do not receive a paper copy in the mail. It would be easier if TU provided an opt-out option online, but, since that’s not possible, she will manually pull your name from the membership labels in an effort to save resources, so no promises that she doesn’t miss a name once in a while!

**Mountain Laurel  
Trout Unlimited**

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## Save the Dates!

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- ◆ July 1 - MLTU Meeting @ Windber Recreation Park (back near the dog park), 7 PM
- ◆ July 13 & 14 - TIC Summit, online, 12:30 - 7:30 PM. Free. Register at:  
<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/168984>
- ◆ July 15 - SCRIP meeting @ Greenhouse Park, 3 PM
- ◆ July 21 - Banquet committee meeting @ either Randy or Dave's house,\* 7 PM
- ◆ August 5 - MLTU Meeting @ Windber Recreation Park (back near the dog park), 7 PM
- ◆ August 18 - Banquet committee meeting @ either Randy or Dave's house,\* 7 PM
- ◆ Sept. 2 - MLTU Meeting @ Windber Recreation Park (back near the dog park), 7 PM
- ◆ Sept. 7 - MLTU newsletter submission deadline, 4 PM (submit materials to Missy)
- ◆ Sept. 11 - MLTU Annual Banquet @ Holiday Inn in downtown, Doors open 5 PM. Details on page 2
- ◆ Sept. 18 - PATU Annual Membership Meeting. Details at [www.patrou.org](http://www.patrou.org)

\* If the weather is nice, banquet committee meetings will be held on the deck at Randy & Pat's house. If the weather is uncooperative, the meetings will be held at Dave's house, just up the road.