

The Flyline



A publication of Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited

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President's Message

by Dave Maher

By the time most of you receive this newsletter we will have had our spring fundraising banquet. The success of the fundraiser supports the many projects and events that your chapter undertakes each year and helps protect our cold water resources. To the banquet committee and everyone else who helped, I would like to say thank you. A special thank you to chairmen, Gary Cooper and David Wright.

The chapter held fly tying class in January and February. We had a total of twenty-five students take the classes this year. Thank you to all chapter members that helped with this year's classes.

The chapter has scheduled four trash clean ups starting in March. Check this newsletter for dates and times. The TIC release days are coming up in May, and we can use extra help. I hope you can find some time to come out and help.

Tight lines,

Dave

Litter Cleanup Dates

MLTU has scheduled its 2024 litter cleanups. Many hands make light work! Please consider helping at one or more of the following. Supplies are often provided.

- ◆ Sunday, March 24 – Bens Creek. Meeting at Jim & Jimmies at 9 AM.
Contact Greg Shustrick. greg-scd@wpia.net
- ◆ Saturday, March 30 – Little Paint/Berwick Road. Meeting along Berwick Road at 8:30 AM.
Contact Missy Reckner. mreckner@brandywine.org
- ◆ Saturday, April 13 – tentatively Yellow Creek. Meeting at the old Pioneer restaurant at 9 AM.
Contact Dave Maher. 814-341-5422
- ◆ Saturday, May 4 – Clear Shade. Meeting at the “Iron Bridge” at 9 AM.
Contact Dave Maher.

The 2024 edition of the Fly Tier's Reunion is set for Wednesday evening April 17 at the Highlands Sporting Clays Lodge located at 199 Teal Drive, Champion, PA at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Somerset County. The event will feature nationally known fly tiers from around the northeastern United States who will be demonstrating their fly tying skills and showcasing their famous and signature fly patterns. All the tiers will provide advice, answer questions, and share their secrets that have helped make them among the best fly tiers in the world.

Among the fly tiers scheduled to appear are Tom Baltz, Tim Cammisa, Joe and Jodi Messinger, Chuck and Ben Furimsky, Joe Jackson, Doug Yocabet, Son Tao, Kieran Frye, Scott Loughner, Greg Heffner, and Ahmad Amran.

The event is free and open to the public and will begin at 6:00 PM and conclude at 9:00 PM. Attendees are also encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the Lodge's excellent food and beverage selections.

As president of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited and a co-author of the book *Keystone Fly Fishing*, I will also be on hand to discuss coldwater resource conservation issues and provide information on local angling destinations.

For questions or more information, call 814-926-6145.



Trout Stocking Opportunities

by Butch Kerchenske

MLTU members are invited to help with several trout stockings this spring. For meeting times and locations, contact me at 814-915-0702.

- ◆ March 19 & April 29 — Bens Creek, Somerset County
- ◆ March 27, May 6 & 7 — Shade Creek, Somerset County
- ◆ April 29 — Stewarts Run, Cambria County
- ◆ April 30 — Yellow Creek, Bedford County
- ◆ April 30 — Mahoning Creek, Indiana County
- ◆ May 6 — Trough Creek, Huntingdon County

A specially designed, custom-made shadow box containing fly patterns designed and tied by professional fly tier, conservationist, and long-time president of the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Randy Buchanan, was presented to the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association. The presentation was made on March 2, 2024 at the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show. The Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum, which is open to the public, is located at 101 Shady Lane Carlisle, PA and houses displays, memorabilia, and information of the many legendary fly anglers of Pennsylvania.



Participating in the presentation of the Randy Buchanan Shadow Box are, left to right, Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited President and MLTU member Lenny Lichvar, Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association (PFFMA) Board Member Bill Skilton, Randy Buchanan's wife and MLTU member Pat Buchanan, and PFFMA Board Member Tom Baltz.



A reminder to those receiving the electronic copy of this newsletter in March...

MLTU's annual fundraising banquet is Saturday, March 23 at a new venue called *The Willow* near the Johnstown Airport. Doors open at 5 PM. Contact Gary Cooper at 266-4763 for tickets, which are \$40 each.

Brandywine Conservancy's Penguin Court preserve and the Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center teamed up for the 7th annual NatureWorks event at the Bottle Works on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Strong advertising, a rainy day, and the popularity of the event made for record attendees. Including representatives of the 25 participating non-profit and governmental agencies, nearly 500 people enjoyed hours of fun, learning, and entertainment.

MLTU was present with three tables full of our story boards that describe problems and solutions for clean, cold water; live macroinvertebrates that could be viewed on a big screen or observed under a magnifying lens; and members demonstrating fly tying.

A big thank you to the following members who staffed MLTU's tables: Pat Buchanan, Andy and Jocelyn Fresch, Dave Maher, Tom Papuga, Nolan Reed, Shane Rudnik, and Dave Wright. Also, thanks to MLTU member, Steve Grodis, who helped at Penguin Court's table.

Guests, young and old alike, had smiles on their faces all day — and no cell phones in their hands!



Above, Pat Buchanan and Shane Rudnik help children identify macroinvertebrates at NatureWorks.

Below, Dave Wright and Nolan Reed tie flies for NatureWorks attendees.



NATURE WORKS



Above, Sue Konvolinka and Melissa Reckner coordinate NatureWorks. Photo by Michelle Callihan.

Below, Andy Fresch explains the significance of macroinvertebrates to a family.

Left, Tom Papuga talks about the art of fly tying.



MLTU Board Members

President: Dave Maher
Vice President: Shane Rudnik
Treasurer: Pat Buchanan
Secretary: Eric Fabrizio

Jeff Baird
Gary Cooper
Adam Cotchen
Butch Kerchenske
Melissa Reckner
Dave Wright

MLTU's recently concluded Fly Tying classes helped to pass the winter hours on Saturday mornings and on Monday evenings.

We had about 15 students on Saturday and about six or seven on Monday evenings.

Chapter members helping out included Dave Wright, Shane Rudnik, Dave Maher, Jassim Hassan, Mark Lee, Bill Conlin, Tom Papuga, Randy Hillegas, and Gary Cooper. If I missed anyone, I apologize.

The class was full of good tips and light-hearted humor, which kept the class moving along at a brisk pace. Students were able to view each step on a video screen provided and operated by Shane Rudnik. When a student encountered a problem, he or she was given extra instruction.

The class covered a wide range of basic skills such as knots, attaching items to a hook, thread handling, and how to use dubbing. Students were encouraged to get the best tools that they can afford.

MLTU would like to thank Richland Township for allowing us to hold our classes at their Municipal Building.

If you would like to learn more about tying trout flies, sign up by calling Dave Wright at 814-442-0248. Start calling in late November and in December for winter fun.



“Growing Our Future”

Eight non-profit groups were present before and during intermission of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra's February 10th concert as part of the JSO's “Growing Our Future” event. This introduced attendees to the missions and projects of organizations that are protecting and enhancing natural resources locally. It was a nice opportunity to engage with a new crowd to showcase our efforts and invite new membership and volunteers.

Thank you to Dave Wright and Tom Papuga for representing MLTU, as shown in the photo by Sue Konvolinka.



Trout in the Classroom (TIC) release day field trips are scheduled for all but one of the seven schools that MLTU supports. Because it takes about half an hour or less for students to release the rainbow trout fingerlings they've raised into a state-approved body of water, Outdoor Discovery Workshop are planned for the rest of the day to expand upon lessons learned in the classroom. MLTU is always present to introduce kids to fly casting and more help would allow each child more time casting. If you would like to lend a hand, please contact me or Adam Cotchen.

Please note, volunteers who work with children need to have their child abuse and criminal history clearances, which MLTU keeps on file, and if you've lived outside of Pennsylvania in the last 10 years, you'll need fingerprinted, which has an approximately \$23 cost. The other clearances are free to obtain. Just Google "Keep Kids Safe PA Clearances" for the forms to complete.

- ◆ Shanksville-Stonycreek Elementary School — Friday, May 3
 - ◆ Richland Elementary School — Tuesday, May 7
 - ◆ Shade-Central City High School — Thursday, May 9
 - ◆ Blacklick Valley Jr.-Sr. High School — Friday, May 17
- ◆ Divine Mercy Catholic Academy East & West — Monday, May 20
 - ◆ Forest Hills Jr.-Sr. High School — TBD



*Students at Divine Mercy Catholic Academy East observe rainbow trout fry in their classroom aquarium.
Left photo by Tina Teno. Right by Melissa Reckner.*

**Mountain Laurel
Trout Unlimited**

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Save the Dates!

- ◆ April 4 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ May 2 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ June 6 — MLTU Meeting @ Richland Municipal Bldg., Board 6:30 PM; Membership 7 PM
- ◆ June 10 — MLTU newsletter submission deadline, 4 PM. Submit materials to Missy.
Newsletter covers July 1 - September 30, 2024.

Please see page 1 for litter cleanup dates, page 2 for trout stocking dates, and page 7 for TIC Release dates.

hello **SPRING**