

Mayflyer

December 2003

V32-I12

www.donegaltu.org

The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

Chapter Meeting Recap 11/19/03:
by Scott Trefny

Wednesday
December 17th
7 PM

Quality Inn
2363 Oregon Pike
Lancaster

Program
"Fishing The
Salmon River"
by
Ray Ellis

Upcoming
Chapter
Activities

25th Annual
Spring
Banquet
& Auction

Saturday
March 27th
2004
5 PM

Quality Inn
2363 Oregon Pike
Lancaster

Dedicated to conserving,
protecting and restoring
the trout streams and
watersheds of
Lancaster County

The November Chapter Meeting featured **Don Baylor** from East Stroudsburg, PA. Don did a program for us years ago dealing with insect hatches in the Pocono Mountains. This time he told us a story of fishing in the Alaskan Peninsula. After a short business meeting run by vice president Bill Billett, Don began his slide show with a story on how the trip became reality. Don had been to Alaska the previous year on a canoe trip. It was a great adventure but expensive. And Don didn't think he would ever return.

But then he got a call from his brother. Don's niece was working on her Master's Degree in fisheries biology in Alaska with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Her job was to study the salmonid populations in a 300-yard stretch of river connecting the Upper and Lower Ugashik Lakes in SW Alaska. The Ugashik River is full of Char, Whitefish, Dolly Varden and Grayling in the month of June. For some reason the hatches in the river come off in the river before the salmon run. The fish that eat insects realize the fact and readily eat the available caddis flies, black flies, mosquitoes and stone flies. The dry fly fishing is fantastic!

Don and his brother came up to help catch, weigh, measure and tag the fish. They got a discount on the airfare as well as a place to sleep. In their spare time they got to fish. What a deal! But sleeping in a small tent and putting up with the black flies and mosquitoes made life difficult at times. Thank goodness for head nets and DEET!

The water in June is no warmer than 55 degrees F, but the fish are adapted to the temperature and thrive in these conditions. The fish were large. The Char and Dolly Varden measured up to 27" while the Grayling averaged 19"-20". It was difficult to tell the difference between the Char and the Dolly Vardens. They had to kill some to count the gill rakers or observe the pyloric caeca. Looks that word up in your Funk and Wagnel's Dictionary! The other way was to measure the caudal peduncle, the part of the body between the adipose fin and the caudal fin. What a great way to marry scientific research and fly fishing. As a former biology teacher, I would have been in my glory.

Don said that they were very lucky to have good weather. After they left the research team had to endure 3-4 days of high wind and rain hiding in small tents. That is not my idea of fun! The tents were also protected from brown bears by four strands of electric fencing. The team had to be trained in the use of shotguns and pepper spray. What a great experience! The slides were great, the scenery beautiful and the talk entertaining. Thank you Don for the great show. Alaska must be fantastic. See you all next month.

(See Page 2 for information on upcoming Chapter Elections.)



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report:

by **Bob Wyble**

We currently have **508** members in our Chapter. As members of TU we have a number of common interests such as improving the quality of water in cold-water streams, learning more about where and how to fish for trout, etc. But the major thing we have in common is an excellent newsletter to communicate with each other. The *Mayflyer* is the glue, which holds us together as a chapter. The *Mayflyer* includes: a Recap of Chapter Meetings; a section called What's Emerging; Committee Reports; What's New at Lancaster Conservation District; Fly of the Month, a Chapter Planner; and stories from members. If you missed **Henry Bazella's** story *Montana On A Shoestring* in the September issue you should check it out.

A very small number of Chapter members write articles for the *Mayflyer*. As a member of this organization we need to hear from you. If you have taken a fishing trip, write a story and share your experience. Include some pictures to personalize your story. If you have an opinion you want to share with chapter members write an article and share your thoughts.

The process is very simple. All you need to do is write your article in Microsoft Word, save it as a file, and attach it to an e-mail to **Matt Kofroth** at the following address mattkofroth@pa.nacdnet.org. If you get your article to Matt by the third Friday of the month, he should be able to get your article in the next month's issue of the *Mayflyer*.

Every member is entitled to receive a copy of the *Mayflyer* each month. It shouldn't surprise you that the cost of printing and mailing the *Mayflyer* goes up every year. Next year we have budgeted **\$8000** to print and mail the *Mayflyer*. You can help reduce this cost by receiving the *Mayflyer* through e-mail instead of the Federal Post Office. Currently **30** Chapter members receive the *Mayflyer* via e-mail. It works like this. Just send an e-mail to me (Bob Wyble) at wbyble@ptd.net, state that you'd like to receive the *Mayflyer* via e-mail, and include your e-mail address. Each month after that I'll send you an e-mail when the *Mayflyer* is posted on the DTU web site (www.donegaltu.org). as a reminder and you go to our website to read it. The electronic *Mayflyer*

is available at least one week earlier than through the Federal mail, plus you'll have the pleasure of reading it in color. You will need **Acrobat Reader** on your computer to open the *Mayflyer* and read it. It's available for free via a link on our website.

We pay approximately \$1000 per year to mail the *Mayflyer* to 500 members. Thirty members now receive the *Mayflyer* by e-mail, which saves \$60 per year. If 100 members would receive the *Mayflyer* by e-mail we could save approximately \$200 per year. If you would like to receive your *Mayflyer* by e-mail please notify me.

Chapter Elections

by **Gary Roulston**

Each year at this time we hold Chapter elections. At our **December Chapter Meeting** we will be electing 3 Officers and 2 new Board Members. Candidates are selected each year by a Nominating Committee (appointed by the Board) and are approved as candidates for election by a vote of the entire Board. Officer candidates for this year are: **Bob Wyble**-President; **Jim Stephens**-Vice President; **Scott Trefny**-Secretary. Bob and Scott have both elected to serve their second and final one-year terms in their respective positions. Jim (our current Membership Chairman) will be replacing Bill Billett as Vice President. Bill has elected not to serve his second one-year term as Vice President. Wayne Boggs our current Treasurer is currently serving the second year of his first two-year term.

Board Member candidates are: **Bill Billett** (retiring as Vice President); and **Dee Lehman** (new to the Board). Both will be elected to three-year terms, as is specified for Board Members in our By-Laws.

TU National permits and we have again chosen for the sake of expediency to use the process of electing the entire slate of Officer and Board Member candidates, en masse. As provided for in our By-Laws, a majority of those Chapter members present and in good standing at the December Meeting will be sufficient to elect all Officers and Board Member candidates. Nominations from the floor are also permitted at that time. Please plan on being present to participate in these elections.

Officers

President

Bob Wyble

986 Hammon Ave.

Ephrata, 17522

733-4939 (Home)

wbyble@ptd.net

Vice President

Bill Billett

602 Longview Dr.

Ephrata, 17522

733-2940 (Home)

billett@dejazzd.com

Secretary

Scott Trefny

26 Whitcraft Drive

Lititz, 17543

626-4512 (Home)

snjrtrefny@dejazzd.com

Treasurer

Wayne Boggs

20 Apple Drive

Downingtown, PA 19335

610-942-4931 (Home)

bluedun@comcast.net



COMMITTEE REPORTS



Program Committee

Chairman: Ted Downs

December's Program will be presented on Wednesday 12/17 and will feature **Ray Ellis** who operates *Ray's Guide Service* in Pulaski, NY. He will present a slide show on fishing **The Salmon River** and the surrounding streams of Upstate New York. The presentation will cover species, migration patterns, spawning cycles, habitat, reading water, fly imitations, and fly fishing techniques. Ray has 15 years experience guiding and fishing on the Salmon River. At the end of the presentation Ray will have a drawing for one person to join him for a full day's fishing trip at no charge.

Membership Committee Report

Chairman: Jim Stephens

Do you know a prospective TU member? If you do, now is the time for them to join TU. TU National has instituted a new membership program. A first time member can now join TU for an introductory rate of only \$17.50. For more information contact Jim Stephens at 717-859-2987 or at jescas@paonline.com.

PA Council of Trout Unlimited - Fall

Membership Meeting, Part 2

by Henry Bazella

On October 10th & 11th, I represented the Donegal TU chapter at the PA Council meeting held in State College, PA. This is the second article on the council meeting (see the November 2003 *Mayflyer* for the first article).

PCB's and Hatchery Trout: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly by **John Arway**. John is currently the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Director of Environmental Services and is PA Council's and DTU's choice to be the new Executive Director of the PFBC. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of man-made chemicals that were used as lubricants and coolants in a variety of industrial and electrical products and applications, such as capacitors, transformers, turbines, etc. The manufacture of PCBs in the United States was discontinued in 1977. The first study of PCBs in trout by the PFBC was conducted in 1986. The Huntsdale hatchery was chosen as the site for this study,

although, at the time it was not known that PCBs existed. The FDA level for PCBs in commercial fish is two parts per million (2 ppm). The 1986 study had a PCB level of 0.3 ppm. Since this time the PFBC has continued to study PCBs and understand more about testing and the source of the contamination. Today's technology has improved and reliable testing can detect very small amounts of PCBs. Continued studies at the Huntsdale hatchery proved that paint, containing PCBs, was used to coat the raceways. As the paint flaked off it contaminated the water/fish. It's also known that PCB wastes were dumped in various areas of Pennsylvania and these dumps continue to contaminate our ground water today. Additionally, since fish food contains fish oils, PCBs can be digested by the food they eat. So what has the PFBC done? At Huntsdale, the "B" Series part of the hatchery was shut down. Fish tested in this section of the hatchery, showed higher levels of PCBs. Tests, conducted on spring water, at Huntsdale, were negative for PCBs and fish food is being tightly monitored and only food with PCB levels of less than 0.126 ppm is purchased. Fish advisories are constantly updated. The advisor currently states that people should not eat more than one meal of fish/week of Pennsylvania caught fish. This includes all fish. There continues to be a lot of work required to understand more about where the PCBs are coming from. All Pennsylvania hatcheries are being monitored and advisories issued as required. As far as wild trout and PCBs, no long-term studies have been conducted although there is no reason to believe wild trout are free of PCBs. So if you're one of those anglers who eat stocked trout, keep your consumption level down to a meal/week. Better yet, consider catching stocked trout a recreation, not a food source and throw them back. To learn more about PCBs in Pennsylvania, logon to this website: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/pfbchom2.html

For Sale: Motorola Talkabouts, various models (5320, 5420, 5625, 5725) in like new condition, \$30 per pair or \$16 each while they last. Call **Bill Middleton – 354 -9414**

Golden Witch Tech., Inc.



Flytying Supplies & Rod Shop

**Open Monday-Thursday Noon - 4 PM
& Fridays 8 AM - 4 PM**

(717) 738-7330

**1560 Kleinfeltersville Road
Stevens, PA 17578**

**info@goldenwitch.com
GOLDENWITCH.COM**

DTU Members Save Money In Our Shop!

Bring in this advertisement and receive 15% off (up to \$100.00 in savings) your purchase of Golden Witch branded rodmaking supplies, including our new cap & ring fly rod reel seats, agate stripping guides, broad winding checks, field grade ferrules, and ferrule plugs. Alternately, you may opt to use this advertisement to save 10% off (up to \$100.00 in savings) on your next purchase of fly tying materials.

We are confident that you'll discover that the effort you put into locating our hidden shop will be well rewarded. Just drive down the 1560/1570 Driveway, located on Kleinfeltersville Road, about a half-mile prior to entering the Middle Creek Refuge (Project 70). The shop is the first building on the left.

RFH

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Robert F. Habig II

Greenfield Executive Offices
1853 William Penn Way
P.O. Box 10368
Lancaster, PA 17605-0368
(717) 393-1875
(800) 556-6229

Securities and Investment Advisory
Services Through H. Beck, Inc.
Member NASD-SIPC
11140 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 468-0100

At Althouse, Martin & Associates, Inc., we give ideas structure.



As one of Lancaster County's leading architectural designers for more than 35 years, we create aesthetically pleasing, cost-effective architectural solutions that meet your highest expectations.

3008 Columbia Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17603
Phone: (717) 291-5928
Fax: (717) 291-9053
E-mail: AltMartn@aol.com



Althouse, Martin & Associates Inc.
Architecture • Planning • Interior Design
ARCHITECTS

M&T Mortgage Corporation



2270 Erin Court
Lancaster, PA 17601
Direct (717) 399-2671
Fax (717) 391-8097

ANDY MALE
Mortgage Banker, CCS
Vice-President
E-Mail amale@mandtbank.com



LandStudies

- **Watershed Assessment**
- **Stream Restoration and Construction Management**

6 South Broad Street
Lititz, PA 17543
717-627-4440
www.landstudies.com



GROSS INVESTMENTS

Donald R. Gross, Jr.
Chartered Financial Analyst

8 N. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 299-4423

Kingsway Realty



Office: (717) 569-8701 Ext. 134
Home: (717) 627-1177
FAX: (717) 431-1405
E-Mail: lamar@lamarreed.com

Lamar S. Reed
REALTOR®, CRS
Serving Lancaster County
for over 30 Years



1770 OREGON PIKE • LANCASTER, PA 17601
www.lamarreed.com





(717) 509-3636

PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE, PRODUCT
QUALITY AND SELECTION SINCE 1980.
PENNSYLVANIA'S FLY FISHING HEADQUARTERS

Conveniently Located In Manheim Township, Lancaster !

1953 Fruitville Pike, Foxshire Plaza
Lancaster, PA

OPEN : Mon-Tues 10-5, Wed-Thu-Fri 10-8, Sat 9-5



RoyalCane Fly Rods

• Fine Craftsmanship •

Hand-crafted bamboo fly rods

Classic tapers/modern tapers

Complete Rods

3-pc., 2-tip \$995 • 2-pc., 2-tip \$895

2-pc., 1-tip \$650 • ferruled blanks \$350

Tom Nigro • (717) 397-2176

WWW.ROYALCANEFLYRODS.COM

Fly Of The Month

"Peacock Undertaker"

Submitted by John Arnold



Description

An excellent fly for steelhead. A variation of the traditional Atlantic salmon fly, I originally tied it for "froggy" water, using a variety of soft materials that move well in slower currents using traditional floating line techniques. It has also worked well in fast, choppy water, and has caught winter steelhead on sinking lines.

Recipe:

HOOK: Alec Jackson. **THREAD:** Black 6/0. **TAG:** Small oval silver tinsel. **BUTT:** Fluorescent yellow, then Fluorescent orange floss. **TAIL:** Golden Pheasant crest. **RIB:** Medium oval silver tinsel. **BODY:** Peacock herl twisted in a loop. **WING:** Krystal Flash, green squirrel tail, and peacocksword fibers. **COLLAR:** Kingfisher blue guinea. **HEAD:** Epoxy.



738-2525

The Finest Complete Selection Of
Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Supplies

ST. CROIX RODS, LOOMIS RODS, ROSS
REELS & DIAMONDBACK FLY RODS

CORTLAND Pro Shop

438 North Reading Road Ephrata, PA 17522

WHAT'S NEW AT:

Lancaster County Conservation District:

by Matthew Kofroth, Watershed Specialist

Be on the look out for some possible DTU stream projects this winter and spring. DTU has enlisted the assistance of the Conservation District to acquire several permits for small stream projects in Lancaster County. Small or not the projects will help DTU get back in the game of coldwater conservation.

Shearers Creek in just North of Manheim is a beautiful cold water fishery stream. In fact the PAFBC has been stocking the stream for years because of its cold water. There are even rumors that Shearers Creek has some native brook trout in its mist but this author is going to keep their location secret for now. Unfortunately Shearer Creek has seen its share of development in the watershed and in recent years has been really hit hard by high storm flows. Although the majority of the stream is wooded there are now certain locations along the stream where severe erosion points are forming and aquatic habitat is being lost. Send in DTU to the rescue! DTU volunteers are hoping to work with a local landowner on "fixing" some of these problems while at the same time protecting the pristine part of the watershed. The work will not be overly extensive but will go a long way to solve some of the issues on the creek.



Problems currently facing Shearers Creek



Hammer Creek Watershed Association by Gary Trostle, President

The Hammer Creek Watershed Association would like to thank Donegal Trout Unlimited for its support over the past several years. DTU supplied the shrubs, trees, cuttings and volunteers on several occasions as we worked to put the finishing touches on our restoration projects, including sections of the Emory Martin farm, and the Snavelly Mill property. Not all of our planting days were picture perfect. Freezing cold and high water the day after Thanksgiving in '02, and the pouring rain on a Saturday morning this Spring made the work challenging to say the least. Here are pictures from some of our plantings, and thanks again!



Thanksgiving Day Planting Session 2002



Spring Planting Day Session 2003



Board Members

Henry Bazella

626-1911 (Home)

henry.bazella@cnh.com

Dr. Joseph Besecker

392-8725 (Home)

poppydoc10@aol.com

Dan Brandt

664-2332 (Home)

dnkbrandt@dejazzd.com

Dave Chalfant

859-2906 (Home)

chalfant@redrose.net

Ted Downs

(Program Chairman)

393-6645 (Home)

tdowns30@comcast.net

Kevin Fausey

626-4003 (Home)

erbbros@desupernet.net

Bob Habig

285-7529 (Home)

rfhfnsv@comcast.net

Matt Kofroth

*(Lancaster County
Conservation District)*

299-5361 (Work)

matt-kofroth@pa.nacdn.net

Bob Kutz

394-9959 (Home)

b.kutz@comcast.net

Gary Roulston

560-7723 (Home)

groulston@comcast.net

Jim Stephens

(Membership Chairman)

859-2987 (Home)

jescas@paonline.com

Greg Wilson

627-0419 (Home)

grgwilson4@aol.com

3 Month Chapter Planner

<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Subject</u>
December	Board Meeting	Wed. 12/10 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 12/17-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Ray Ellis "Fishing the Salmon River"
January	Board Meeting	Wed. 1/14 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 1/21-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Jim Finn "Fishing Iceland for Atlantic Salmon, Char, and Sea Run Brown Trout"
February	Board Meeting	Wed. 2/11 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 2/18-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	George Magaro "Delaware River Shad Fishing"

Montana River Trilogy

(Continued from page 8)

spot, then get out and wade. Very little casting was done from the boats. We were all using 9-foot rods with five- or six-weight lines. When we found fish, there was usually a pod working. It was relatively easy wading, but you could get in trouble if you were too venturesome, or too short, like me.

For deprived Easterners, the Bighorn is a fly fisherman's dream. It has great fertile water, plenty of insect activity, lots of room for wading and casting and more trout than the whole state of Pennsylvania. There's just one drawback-people. That's right, I said people. There are people all over the Bighorn River.

There are lots of places to fish, and there are plenty of fish to be caught; but there are just too damn many people on the river for my taste. Fly fishing, like turkey hunting, is a solitary endeavor that's best enjoyed alone or with a very few long-time friends. Fishing gives all of us a chance to get back in sync with nature and contemplate our belly buttons. Unfortunately, on the Bighorn, it's often someone else's belly button, or whatever, that you're contemplating.

Most of the people on the river were good folk, as fly fisherman are prone to be. That may even be true about the guy who wanted to punch me in the mouth. Seems like he had a spot he thought belonged to him, and I had moved into it. Forget the fact that he had walked away from that spot 15 minutes before I got there. He obviously thought he had established squatter's rights and could come back at any time. I found out later he had left that spot earlier because he had been playing hide the fly and needed someone to find it in his ear. So, maybe the pain in his ear had migrated to his rear and made him act like a pain in the ass!

The Bighorn makes its way through rolling hills, low slung mountains and the plains of south-central Montana. The river snakes through the lands of the Crow Nation. If you close your eyes, you can hear the drums and singsong chant of Crow warriors and smell the black powder smoke drifting across the plains from the battle of the Little Bighorn.

In addition to learning how to nymph fish (like a dry fly under water) I also learned how not to get out of a drift boat. You don't step out of the bow end on the down-stream side. If you do, your weight shifts to the first leg out; the bow comes up, lifts your trailing leg; dumps you in the water; then the boat swings over you. Blechschmidt, one of the better nymph fishermen in our group, demonstrated this to me. When I finally stopped laughing long enough to talk, I asked him "Are you all right?" He said "No, you dumb ****, I'm soaking wet." Ed lacks a sense of humor.



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #6
AKRON, PA 17501

P.O. Box 872
Brownstown, PA 17508

www.donegaltu.org



printed on recycled paper

Donegal Trout Unlimited is a non profit organization affiliated with National Trout Unlimited located at
1500 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 310, Arlington, Virginia 22209-2310 (703-522-0200)

Mayflyer

Montana River Trilogy by Don Shaw

The Bighorn River

My knees hurt like hell. Hours of constant pressure from the water were reminding me of an old football injury, or was it volleyball? It was probably a combination of age and genetics—something a forgotten ancestor left to me.

It was the last week in July, my first fishing trip to Montana, and I was standing thigh deep in the Bighorn River making what seemed like my one thousandth cast without a strike. I'd always said I wasn't much of a nymph fisherman and now I was proving it. My eyes were watering from squinting at the fluorescent yellow strike indicator as it sculled its way past me again. It looked a lot like a gum drop.

This was my first western fishing trip. **Four of us from New Holland**, were on a week and a half swing through Montana, and the Bighorn was our first stop. Our lodging was provided by Gordon Rose, owner of the Quill Gordon fly shop in Fort Smith. The other three in our group: **Dale Ashcroft**, **John Rhoades**, and **Ed Blechschmidt** had been wading all over Montana for the past five years. So, they knew what they were doing, and it showed. They were catching three or four fish to my one. No question, it was a matter of touch, and I didn't have it. Oh, I was catching a

fish every once in a while, but I was spending most of my time netting other people's fish. I don't want to complain. After all, if they hadn't been catching fish, I might not have had anything to do!

The best producing flies were sow bugs, scuds and fresh water shrimp imitations, fished with a couple of split shot and a strike indicator. Somebody told me there aren't any fresh water shrimp in the Bighorn, so I guess the fish thought the shrimp imitations were sow bugs. There was also some activity on PMD dries and emergers, as well as brown and green caddis emergers.

The fish were Rainbows and they averaged about 15" or 16". One that I netted for Dale was an honest 26". You can trust me on this, it wasn't my fish! After I netted it, he had the nerve to hand me his camera and ask me to take his picture. He claimed to have lost a bigger fish. He was fishing two flies, a sow bug on the bottom and a PMD emerger on a dropper. The fish took the emerger and, after a short spirited fight, straightened the hook. I believed him.

The drill had us putting our drift boats in each morning below the Yellowtail Dam, at Fort Smith, then spending the next fourteen hours covering thirteen miles of river between Fort Smith and the take-out spot. We'd row, really drift and row, from hot spot to hot

(Continued on page 7)