

Mayflyer

February 2004

V33-12

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The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

Chapter Meeting Recap 1/21/04: by Scott Trefny

The monthly meeting was held at the Quality Inn and Suites in Lancaster with 39 people present. Wayne Boggs reported a balance in the treasury of \$38,661, as well as a report on the spending of DTU for the month of December.

We had a special guest speaker, Dr. Frank Plucinsky, from the Tully Chapter to discuss possible changes in regulations on *Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only* stretches of our PA trout streams, which would include the Tulpehocken Creek. A group calling itself the *Traditional Anglers of Pennsylvania* feels that after June 15, the streams should be open to all types of fishing including bait. Why do they want these changes? The answer is obvious. The trout in the stream have not been caught! These *Traditional Anglers* have killed all of the other fish and want to kill these fish, too. Their rationale is that the fish will die from the warm waters of summer. But we know that idea is not valid. We have all caught hold over fish on the Tully.

It is important that all 503 members of Donegal Trout Unlimited along with the 10,000 other members of PATU write letters opposing this legislation change. Can we let 130 people change what many enjoy? There are 4,400 miles of open waters in PA and only 92 ½ miles of regulated streams. Is this too much to ask from the PAFBC? When the time comes, write or e-mail. We will keep you posted in the newsletter on our website.

Our program presenter for the evening was Jim Finn the former owner of Mossy Creek

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Fly Shop in Virginia. He now plans trips to various parts of the world including Iceland. This presentation was entitled "Fishing in Iceland for Atlantic Salmon, Char and Sea Run Brown Trout. He was invited on this trip to explore the fishing opportunities in the western most European countries. Iceland is only 5 hours from BWI. The population of 280,000 people lives in an area about the size of the British Isles. Almost all live around the perimeter of the island, as the interior is quite a hostile environment. Iceland was settled by Erik the Red in the 10th century. Leif Erikson, his son, colonized Greenland years later.

Jim showed many great pictures of Iceland including Icelandic horses, the capital Reykjavik. It is an expensive place to live—a martini can cost upwards of \$18.

The cost of a Salmon beat on a river can cost \$11,500 per week. This cost could be shared between two people. A brown trout trip could be booked for about \$2500 for 5 days. There is not much public water in Iceland and the rivers are controlled by associations of riparian landowners. Most lease beats for a week.

The scenery was beautiful and the rivers were wide and easy to fish. The fish were bright and beautifully spotted. A trip to this country would be a real treat even if you don't fish. Thank you, Jim, for taking the time to show us this small but beautiful country.

Wednesday
February 18th
7 PM
Quality Inn
2363 Oregon Pike
Lancaster

Program
"Delaware River
Shad Fishing"
by
George Magaro

Upcoming
Chapter
Activities

25th Annual
Spring
Banquet
& Auction

Saturday
March 27th
2004
5:00 PM

Quality Inn
2363 Oregon Pike
Lancaster



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report:

by Bob Wyble

Adopt –A-Stream-Section

Last month I indicated that we would need help from some of you to provide maintenance for projects on Lititz Run. We have identified five sections of Lititz Run to focus on for maintenance during the coming year:

Riparian Park (Lititz Run)

Dan Zimmerman (Warwick Township)

- Maintain Kiosk
- Trash Pick Up

Millport Conservancy (Lititz Run)

Logan Myers (Land Owner)

- Remove Debris from Lititz Run
- Trash Pick Up

Millport Conservancy (Tree Nursery)

Contact Kevin Fausey (Donegal TU)

- Weed Control in Nursery
- Trash Pick Up

Luke Weidler (Tributary of Lititz Run)

Luke Weidler (Land Owner)

- Weed Control Under Fence
- Thistle Control

Baum Farm (Lititz Run)

Wayne Baum (Land Owner)

- Weed Control Under Fence
- Thistle Control

We are looking for **five DTU members** to step up and agree to be a **maintenance supervisor** to provide maintenance for the areas listed above. What would it involve? Each volunteer supervisor would work with a landowner or Warwick Township to determine what needs to be done. The workload could most likely be completed in three days out of the year: a day in the spring; a day in the summer; and a day in the fall.

For example, we constructed fences along stream banks to keep cattle out of Lititz Run. Weeds under those fences need to be controlled by using a weed whacker to cut the weeds down. We have hundreds of tree seedlings in small pots in our tree nursery. These pots need to be weeded. We need someone to supervise cutting weeds down under fences and also to weed pots in the nursery. The supervisor could bring in a

group of boy scouts or other groups to do the actual work but someone needs to supervise and make sure the work is carried out.

I am appealing to you as a member of DTU to lend us a hand and agree to **Adopt-A-Stream-Section** of Lititz Run to supervise maintenance. If you are interested in being a **maintenance supervisor** for 2004 please give me a call at **733-4939** or send me an email at wyble@ptd.net to discuss details.

Keystone Coldwater Conference

by Gary Roulston

Pennsylvania Trout is pleased to announce the 2004 **Keystone Coldwater Conference**, to be held at the Penn Stater on **Saturday, February 28, 2004**. This year's conference, "*Managing Runoff – Urban and Rural*", will provide many stimulating sessions, covering urban themes such as handling stormwater and sewage, and how to deal with development and transportation issues. Rural sessions will focus on problems related to agriculture, forestry, mineral recovery and erosion from dirt and gravel roads. The Keynote speaker will be Joe Armstrong, long-time Trout Unlimited activist, involved with protecting Valley Creek, an urban fishery, and author of Trout Unlimited's Guide to Pennsylvania Limestone Streams. The \$30 registration fee includes all sessions and a gourmet lunch. Program details and registration materials will be available by mail in early January. Call 814-863-5100 for information or visit the program website at www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/coldwaterconservation. Attendees can also choose to stay for an optional evening dinner, featuring outdoor writer and naturalist Marcia Bonta, presenting "An Appalachian Year."

Officers

President

Bob Wyble

986 Hammon Ave.

Ephrata, 17522

733-4939 (Home)

wyble@ptd.net

Vice President

Jim Stephens

27 Ashland Dr.

Ephrata, 17522

859-2987 (Home)

jescas@paonline.com

Secretary

Scott Trefny

26 Whitcraft Drive

Lititz, 17543

626-4512 (Home)

snjtrefny@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

February's Program will feature **George Magaro**. George is a member of the Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association and will tell us all we need to know about where, when and how to fish the Delaware River for the Spring Shad run. Come and join us on **Wednesday, February 18th** for what promises to be an excellent presentation.

Membership Committee Report

Chairman: Bill Billett

Just a reminder that TU is still running the special new membership rate of \$17.50 (That is half the regular new membership rate). So, if you have a fishing buddy or friend that has shown interest TU now is the time to join.



New Member - Becky Buchanan

Fundraising Committee Report

Chairman: Dan Brandt

March 27th. That's the date everyone should have circled on their calendar. Our 25th Annual Spring, yes SPRING, Fundraising Banquet will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites on Oregon Pike. If you have not received your tickets and registration form yet, you should shortly. Please send in registration forms as soon as you can. This year we have added some new games, like the fishbowl game where you toss a ping pong ball in a fishbowl and win a gift certificate or cash; or toss a ring on a soda bottle and win your choice of adult beverage. We have also added some soothing and sometimes lively piano music throughout the evening by Jack Williams. Buy a mug for \$50 or new this year a fish pack with close to \$200 worth of tickets for various games for only \$100. We have reduced the amount of

buckets, but don't worry they have bigger and better items in them. So come out and help us raise money for the future of our steams and have a good time with your friends on **Saturday March 27th**. Doors open at 4:30 PM with a social hour from 4:30-6:30 PM. Dinner is to be served at approximately 6:45 PM. If you need more tickets, please call me at 664-2332 or e-mail at dnkbrandt@dejazzd.com. Here are some pictures from last year's Banquet. Thanks for all your help and see everyone there!



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Bush Makes Time for 'Hook and Bullet' Set

Fishing and hunting groups have the administration's ear and are emerging as a lobbying force for environmental issues.

Los Angeles Times, January 4, 2004

by Elizabeth Shogren, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON - The National Rifle Association was represented at the White House meeting; so were Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever. Altogether, President Bush spent more than an hour with the leaders of some 20 hunting and fishing groups in the room named for Theodore Roosevelt, the first conservationist president. Top on the visitors' list of concerns at the session in December was a plan by some administration officials to rewrite the 1972 Clean Water Act in a way that could damage millions of acres of wetlands and countless miles of streams - prime habitat for the wildlife that these groups hunt and fish.

Without specifying his position on the issue, Bush assured those in the room that he understood the value of wetlands and would not let his administration do anything that would spoil them, participants in the meeting said. **Just four days later, Bush killed the plan to rewrite the Clean Water Act.**

The unusually lengthy meeting - followed by a major decision in its favor - shows the "hook and bullet" crowd, as the anglers and hunters call themselves, to be a powerful new force on environmental issues in Washington. Traditional environmental groups, which have been hostile to the president from the start, have had a hard time catching the administration's ear. The hunters and anglers are more effective with the Bush administration, some of their leaders said, because they represent millions of Americans, many of whom vote Republican, and because they reject the confrontational strategy of the environmental movement.

"President Bush knows full well that most of the sportsmen were part of his political base, and he doesn't want to alienate them," said Jim Martin, a board member of National Wildlife Federation and conservation director for Pure Fishing, the nation's largest tackle company. "I don't think he cares what the environmental community thinks, but he cares what the sportsmen think." Rollin Sparrowe, president of Wildlife Management Institute, also attended the meeting with Bush. "It's more effective to say we want to help this be done right than to bash people for what they're not doing," he said. "We have certainly been listened to."

Many traditional environmentalists recognize that the hunting and fishing groups have had the president's attention - and that they have not. "Exhibit A is that they were invited to the White House to meet with the president," said Joan Mulhern, an attorney focusing on water issues for the environmental law firm Earthjustice. "That's not happening to us yet." When Christie Whitman was the Environmental Protection Agency administrator, she understood the "hook and bullet" crowd's clout at the White House. About six months ago, Whitman called Jim Range, chairman of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a nonprofit advocacy group focused on issues affecting hunting and fishing, and asked if he would gather representatives of member groups to talk with her about wetlands policy. "It was her analysis that because of the importance the hunting and fishing community has always placed on wetlands, they would be the most influential people on this administration and this president," Range recalled.

(Continued on page ii)

Bush Makes Time for 'Hook and Bullet' Set

(Continued from page i)

Whitman, whose goal at the EPA was to protect wetlands and streams, knew that others in the administration were eager to limit the scope of the Clean Water Act. By asking the sportsmen groups to play a role, she was hoping to “help facilitate bringing the other members of the team on board,” said a former senior EPA official who spoke on the grounds that he not be named. The conservationists told her that the decision facing the administration on wetlands protection was the most important issue for their community, Range said. At her request, they drafted a letter to the president expressing their “strong opposition” to the proposed policy change. “America’s rich hunting and fishing traditions are inextricably tied to the protection of habitat, and as sportsmen and Republican presidents have known for over 100 years, isolated wetlands and small ponds are among the most important habitat,” said the letter, which was signed by the leaders of 31 fishing and hunting groups.

Whitman gave Bush the letter during a meeting in late June before she left her post. Sportsmen also sent tens of thousands of letters to their representatives in Congress. Last month, more than half of the members of the House sent a letter to Bush urging him not to erode the Clean Water Act. James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said that unlike the traditional environmental groups, the sportsmen worked “constructively” with the White House on the wetlands issue. The White House was already indebted to these groups for the work they had done in securing congressional approval of other administration initiatives, including conservation programs in the farm bill as well as authorization in the healthy forest bill to cut trees and clear underbrush to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Connaughton said these groups shared the president’s commitment to “personal stewardship.” “They work locally and do real work, spending their own time and money on the ground to produce really great conservation outcomes,” said Connaughton, who attended the meeting between the president and the groups’ leaders. Unlike traditional environmental groups, he said, “they do not dedicate the majority of their time to advertising campaigns and political bombshells.”

The warm reception conservation groups have received from the Bush administration contrasts with the cold shoulder they got from the Clinton administration, said Robert Model, president of the Boone and Crockett Club, which was founded by Roosevelt in 1887. Like Bush, these groups believe in managed use of natural resources. “It goes back to a philosophical difference,” said Model, who also attended the White House meeting. “Our community believes in multiple use and responsible sustained use of our natural resources. The other side is more protectionist. It’s use versus no use.”

The close relationship between the “hook and bullet” crowd and the White House was threatened after a draft bill developed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Justice Department to rewrite of the Clean Water Act was leaked to the Los Angeles Times last month, representatives of some of the sportsmen groups said. Editorials and news articles criticizing the draft bill appeared throughout the outdoor press. “I haven’t seen the sportsmen weigh in on any environmental issue this strong in many years,” said Martin of the National Wildlife Federation. “The Clean Water Act is a foundation of conservation in this country, so this was an extraordinarily mobilizing issue with the sportsmen community.”

Now that it has found its political voice, the sportsmen’s community is focusing on another issue on which its interests conflict with White House policy: drilling for oil on public lands that are prime habitat for big game and grouse. And Martin believes that with a little more education, anglers may become a powerful force for quick action by the administration to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. Forty-three states now warn anglers to limit or refrain from eating fish they catch because of mercury contamination.



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Fly Of The Month

“Biot Miracle Nymph”

Submitted by A.K. Best



Description

There are a number of theories about what this little nymph imitates. It doesn't matter to me, because I'm always happy to catch trout in the middle of winter.....on any fly!

Recipe:

HOOK: Mustad 3906 or equivalent, #18-#22.

THREAD: Black 6/0 or 8/0.

RIB: Fine copper wire (optional).

BODY: White goose or duck biot.

HEAD: Black thread.



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WHAT'S NEW AT:

PA Fish & Boat Commission:

by Matt Kofroth

The Commission has been approached by members of the *Traditional Anglers of Pennsylvania* requesting that regulations pertaining to the Delayed Harvest programs be modified to permit all tackle during the mid-June through Labor Day harvest period. Currently, the same tackle restrictions apply to the harvest period as the remainder of the year; that is, either fly fishing only or artificial lures only depending on which program regulations apply to individual waters. The harvest period is to allow anglers to take trout that otherwise face less desirable habitat with the onset of warmer water and low flows typical of most seasonal trout stocked streams during the summer. The assertion that the stocked trout are paid for by general license and trout stamp dollars and thus all anglers should have equal access to harvest trout is fundamental to the interests of the Traditional Anglers.

In addition to the equity issue, staff believes that the all tackle provisions during the harvest period might be beneficial in encouraging traditional anglers to the delayed harvest concept. Moreover, by mid-June, all tackle activity on these areas should not be profound because many anglers are less inclined to go trout angling.

During the Fisheries Committee meeting in September 2003, staff gave a presentation reviewing delayed harvest and similar regulations on seasonal trout stocked waters in neighboring jurisdictions as well as the results from studies on delayed harvest waters in Pennsylvania. During the summer "harvest" season, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland have no tackle restrictions and in some cases no minimum length limits on waters that for most of the rest of the year have more restrictive regulations, including no-kill and artificial lures only. The presentation also acknowledged negative aspects of a proposed change, including the change in and of itself, the potential for increased littering, more complicated regulations and the potential for broadening the no-tackle liberalization into the no-kill period. The Fisheries Committee indicated that the concept of a no-tackle restriction during the harvest period for Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only areas was worthy of being brought before the general public. As such, the Committee instructed staff to prepare an agenda item for the January 2004 Commission meeting.

The Commission already has received several public comments regarding the proposal even though there has not been an official public comment period. Copies of all comments have been provided to the Commissioners. Staff recommends that if the Commission approves the publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking containing this amendment, there be an extended public comment period of 60 days and at least one public meeting be held during that period.

TU National:

Washington, 1/22/2004 - The National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council (NRC) this week identified "urgent" actions to reverse the depletion of wild Atlantic Salmon, a federally listed endangered species. The NRC policy recommendations include those advocated for years by Trout Unlimited (TU), including:

- A program of systemic dam removal, designed to eliminate obstacles to the passage of migrating Salmon, should start immediately.
- Hatcheries should be used sparingly to increase the Salmon population.
- When hatcheries are used, their focus should be to preserve the genetic diversity of remaining wild Salmon populations by providing them with a secure place to grow, if necessary.
- Stocking streams with Salmon or non-native fishes should be avoided, because they may mate with or crowd out wild Salmon, or out-compete them for food.
- Mitigating the effects of acid rain on Maine's Salmon rivers, including a pilot stream-liming project to reduce stream acidity to promote Salmon recovery.
- Improved monitoring of water quality and better efforts to prevent farmed Salmon from escaping are essential.
- Fishing for wild Atlantic Salmon should continue to be prohibited.
- A comprehensive decision-analysis approach should be established to prioritize and coordinate efforts to restore the Salmon.

The report identified the Penobscot River, Maine's largest, as critical to U.S. Atlantic Salmon survival: "Since most Maine Salmon are now in the Penobscot River, that population should be a primary focus for rehabilitating the species in Maine." The "Penobscot Partnership" is a working agreement among TU and other conservation groups; the Penobscot Indian Nation; the state of Maine; the Department of the Interior; and the dams' owner, **Pennsylvania Power and Light Corporation**, to remove two dams and bypass a third on the river. An estimated \$50 million will be needed to implement the partnership's goals.

"These recommendations, in conjunction with the initiative to remove the Penobscot dams, represent the last best chance for Atlantic Salmon recovery, but they cannot be accomplished without significant new resources," said Leon Szeptycki, TU Eastern Conservation Director. "A good first step would be to secure funding to implement the Penobscot Partnership."

The NRC report was requested and funded by Congress in the wake of the 2000 decision to list Atlantic salmon runs in eight Maine rivers as endangered. The report, and an interim report released in 2002, confirms that the science behind the listing was sound and that immediate action is needed to prevent the extinction of the last remaining runs of Atlantic salmon in the United States.

3 Month Chapter Planner

Board Members

Henry Bazella

626-1911 (Home)
henry.bazella@cnh.com

Dr. Joseph Besecker

392-8725 (Home)
poppydoc10@aol.com

Bill Billett

733-2940 (Home)
billett@dejazzd.com

Dan Brandt

664-2332 (Home)
dnkbrandt@dejazzd.com

Dave Chalfant

859-2906 (Home)
chalfant@redrose.net

Ted Downs

393-6645 (Home)
tdowns30@comcast.net

Kevin Fausey

626-4003 (Home)
erbbros@desupernet.net

Bob Habig

285-7529 (Home)
rfhfnsv@comcast.net

Matt Kofroth

299-5361 (Work)
matt-kofroth@pa.nacdn.net

Bob Kutz

394-9959 (Home)
b.kutz@comcast.net

Dee Lehman

397-8503 (Home)
deilehman@state.pa.us

Gary Roulston

560-7723 (Home)
groulston@comcast.net

Greg Wilson

627-0419 (Home)
grgwilson4@aol.com

<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Subject</u>
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"
March	Board Meeting	Wed. 3/10 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 3/17-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Carol Stevenson "Casting For Recovery"
	25th Annual Spring Banquet & Fundraiser	Sat. 3/27-4:30 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Fun, Food & Fundraising!
April	Board Meeting	Wed. 4/14 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 4/21-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Marc Billett "Bighorn River Fishing"

Montana River Trilogy - Part 3

(Continued from page 8)

Dale and I decided to stay with the Madison because of the note we'd seen on the bulletin board in **The Blue Ribbon Fly Shop** in West Yellowstone. In reference to the Madison, it said: "Don't be afraid to stay after dark."

When the sun left the water, someone threw the "hit switch," and the trout turned on. Dale and I both were constantly hooked up, which is not to say we were constantly landing fish. As soon as the fish felt the fly – a size 22 tan Palomino caddis emerger -- they headed for the center of the river and the fastest flow.

Then, it was just a matter of hanging on, because the fish were in charge; and there wasn't any way you could muscle them with light tippets, once they reached the fast water.

The result was we landed the smaller fish and, as expected, the big ones got away.

The majority of the trout were holding right along the bank, so that's where we got most of our hits.

The most successful tactic was to fish the caddis emerger upstream on a dead drift like a dry fly. That put the fly right below the water's surface.

Maintaining a low profile definitely helped the hit-to-cast ratio. These fish have been cast to, fished over and probably caught and released more times than any of us want to believe.



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Mayflyer

Montana River Trilogy - Part 3 by Don Shaw

The Madison River

After two days on the Missouri, we headed out for the Madison and the town of West Yellowstone, where we thought we had reservations.

Unfortunately, the motel owner didn't have any record of our reservations, and the member of our party who supposedly made the reservations didn't have confirmation. So, we started out homeless.

Go to school on us, and don't hit West Yellowstone during July or August without reservations and then expect to find a room. It might happen, and then again you might also hit the lottery.

Eventually, we found a place in Mack's Inn, Idaho, about 20 miles outside of West Yellowstone. Mack's Inn is the name of the town as well as the name of the rustic resort where we rented a cabin. The cabin was a little shopworn, but fine for fishermen, who were also somewhat shopworn; and the price was right.

Our new base of operations put us about a half hour from

the Madison. A few of our less respectable members involved themselves in poker games at local watering holes that first evening. As a result, morning came later than normal, and we didn't hit the Madison until noon.

We fished the Cliff and Wade lakes area. It was private property and we had to use a private road to get back to the river, and then we parked on private land. The owner, a local rancher, had an honor system that asked everyone using the parking area to throw a couple bucks in a lock box. It's certainly a reasonable fee for using his land. (We told him that.) This rancher was one of the last holdouts who hadn't sold out to local land developers. When all the land goes, access to the Madison could very well go with it. That first afternoon on the river was tough, the sun was bright, the water clear and the fish spooky.

Hits were few and far between; so, as the evening came on, Ed and John elected to head out to Lake Hebgen and try for "gulpers"--legendary giant trout that come up to sip midges in the evening hours.

(Continued on page 7)