

Mayflyer

July 2004

V33-17

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The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

Chapter Meeting Recap 6/22/04:

by Bob Wyble

A dozen members of DTU were greeted by a thunderstorm at the Doc Fritchey Chapter picnic on July 22nd. What's a little rain? If we have no water we have no fish. Besides we had a nice pavilion and everyone was able to keep dry. The sun soon came out and we had a lovely evening at Memorial Lake on the grounds of Fort Indiantown Gap.

We had roasted pig and all the trimmings to go with it. When the rain stopped we received some excellent fly-casting instructions from professional guide and casting instructor Craig Hull. Ken Calkin, a member of DFTU, demonstrated how he makes woodcarvings of trout, and Chris Detweiler brought his guitar to entertain us with some music. We also had a chance to play a game of chance, but I don't think anyone from the DTU crowd won anything.

DFTU President **Frank Viozzi** gave us an update on DFTU activities. Restoration work on Manada Creek has begun and DFTU members taught youth at the Capital Area Youth Field Day in June how to tie flies. DFTU also hosted a group of veterans from the Lebanon VA Hospital for an evening of trout fishing at a stocked pond in Schaefferstown.

SC Regional Vice President **Bob Pennell** delivered the (7) copies of Mike Klimkos' book that we ordered "*A History of Trout Unlimited and the Environmental Movement in Pennsylvania*".

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protecting and restoring
the trout streams and
watersheds of
Lancaster County

It was good to connect again with our friends from the Doc Fritchey Chapter and we look forward to DFTU members joining us for a picnic in Lancaster County next summer.

July Program:

by Bob Wyble

Our program for July will be a **Picnic Meeting** at DTU member Bob Bachman's residence on **Wednesday July 21st** beginning at **6 PM**. Dr. Bob Bachman has been an advocate for improving water resources locally and nationally and has spoken out for managing coldwater streams to keep hatchery trout out of streams where wild trout can grow and reproduce naturally. We are pleased to have Bob as a member of our chapter. He now lives at **Blue Lake** near Reinholds. **Directions to the July picnic are as follows:**

From the intersection of PA Turnpike and US 222, take PA Rt. 272 north to PA 897. Take PA 897 North through Reinholds to Blue Lake Road at the Mennonite Meeting House. Turn left onto Blue Lake Road and go to the end at the intersection with Peartown Road. You're there! Park on the grass by the lake. Please bring a lawn chair to enjoy a burger and chat with your friends from DTU. See you there!

Wednesday

July 21st

6 PM

**Bob
Bachman
Residence**

**Program
Picnic
Meeting**

Upcoming
Chapter
Activities

**Fly Fishing
Expo**

**Saturday
September 11th
9 AM - 4 PM**

**Ned Bushong
Farm**

**See Page 2 for
more
information**



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report: by Bob Wyble

I just returned from two days of fishing on Kettle Creek as I write this report. If you have never cast a line on Kettle Creek I would highly recommend a trip to Potter County for some summer fishing. The major hatches are over but you can have some fun with beetles, nymphs, wooly buggers etc.

Water quality in the middle and upper reaches of **Kettle Creek** is considered "**Exceptional Value**" by the PFBC. In the fly-fishing section below Ole Bull State Park you will see an example of natural stream channel design, bank stabilization, and tree plantings in the riparian zone. Kettle Creek, which flows 43 miles, begins in Tioga County and continues through Potter County before emptying into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Clinton County.

While major improvements have been completed on Kettle Creek there is still a lot of work to be done with acid mine drainage below the Alvin Bush Dam and with sediment, which is a problem in the middle and upper reaches. I witnessed the sediment problem first hand on June 18. On Thursday, June 17 the water was clear and I was taking trout on beetles. Thursday night thunderstorms rolled in so when I checked the fly-fishing section on Friday morning the water was very cloudy but fishable. No action on top but buggers and nymphs worked fine.

Our chapter has donated \$1000 to the TU Nation Coldwater Conservation Fund with the stipulation that our contribution be used for improvements on Kettle Creek. So if you have time, take a trip and see first hand how some of the money raised by DTU is being used. I found plenty of fish in Kettle Creek and had a great two days of fly-fishing.

Looking to future events you may recall that last year DTU organized a **Fly Fishing Exposition**, which was held in August. We are making plans to hold another Expo this year on **Saturday, September 11th**. The Evening Rise Fly Fishing Outfitters and TCO Fly Shop (Tulpenhocken Creek Outfitters) will be back.

We are also waiting on replies from other fly shops. This year the expo will be open from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, with a pig roast for lunch. The expo will be held on the **Ned Bushong Farm** on Clay Road north of Newport Road. Mr. Bushong has ponds available on his farm to give you an opportunity to cast different rods and lines. Specific directions will be published in the August Mayflyer.

One of the features this year will be a fly casting class taught by Tom Cooney and Andy Becker representing Cortland Line Company. A three-hour class for beginners will be held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon and a three-hour class advanced class will be held from 1:00 PM to 4:00 P.M.

Each instructor will work with no more than 3 students at a time. So we have openings for 6 beginning students in the morning class and openings for 6 advanced students in the afternoon class. Students will be asked to pay a registration fee of **\$20.00** per student per class. Registrations will be accepted in advance on a first come, first served basis.

If you would like to register for the one of these classes please send a check for **\$20.00 payable to Donegal Trout Unlimited** to:

Bob Wyble
986 Hammon Ave.
Ephrata, PA 17522

Include a note with your check indicating whether you want the beginning class or the advanced class. Also include your **telephone** number. I will give you a call to verify your registration. **Note**; if you are just getting into fly-fishing and you do not have a rod for the beginning class, rods will be supplied by the instructions.

You may call **Bob Wyble** at **733-4939** to see if registrations are full. Please register promptly so you don't miss this opportunity for instruction. Look for more details on the Fly Fishing Exposition in the August Mayflyer. Mark your calendar today to keep **September 11th** open for the Expo.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS



Education Committee Report

Chairman: Dave Chalfant

We had a rainy & wet day for the Lancaster County Youth Field Day. But in spite of that approximately 150 young people showed up for this very special event. Thanks to all of the TU volunteers for their help. A special thanks to Kevin Fausey for organizing this event and to Ed Kraft for his time and patience in teaching the kids about fly tying.

Our next event is the **SPECIAL OLYMPICS FREE FISHING DAY**. We are participating in a fishing derby for the athletes of the Lancaster County Special Olympics in cooperation with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the Lancaster County Special Olympics Committee. The event will be held on **Saturday, August 7th**, at Speedwell Forge Lake. The time for TU volunteers is in the AM from 8:30 - 12:30. This is a very rewarding experience for all (both volunteers and participants). The location is Route 501 north of Lititz to Brubaker Valley Road to Lakeview Drive to the parking lot and pavilion. We need volunteers for this event. Please mark your calendar for this event and plan to attend.

Membership Committee

Chairman: Bill Billett

As of May 5th total membership for the chapter is **505**. There are nine new members: **Mr. Caldwell** from Elizabethtown; **Brenda Deluca** from Conestoga; **Bobbi Carmitchell** from Washington Boro; **Warren Shirk** from Manheim; **Tom Atkins, Brian Myer, Phil Bird, Shawn Mitcheel** and **Mitchell Rice**, all from Lancaster.

The chapter has grown by five over last month's total but we're still a far cry from our goal of 600 for the year, so keep beating the bushes. Use the new flyers and get the word out there about how good this organization is and what we have to offer for the general public and the community at large.

An "UnBelizeable" Adventure (Part 1)

(Continued from page 7)

relief, they heaved the Tarpon into the boat, Jose (who is only about 5 ft 3" and 130 pounds) crashing to the deck. Jose remembered to get two scales for me and we released the fish after shooting a few pictures. Jose guessed it was easily 100 pounds. The Tarpon took about 5 minutes to revive before swimming away gracefully. I don't know if Jose was just trying to butter me up, but he said it was the largest Tarpon caught by a women in his ten years of guiding. Pretty cool, but I couldn't take all of the credit because without Nick and Jose, and a LOT of luck, that Tarpon would have been lost. Other fish were caught, some very nice, but this one will live with me forever.



Dee Lehman and her 100 lb. Tarpon

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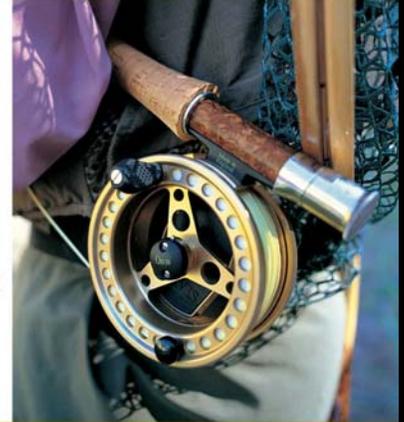
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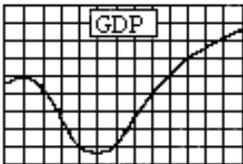
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WHAT'S NEW AT:

Lancaster County Conservation District:

by Matthew Kofroth

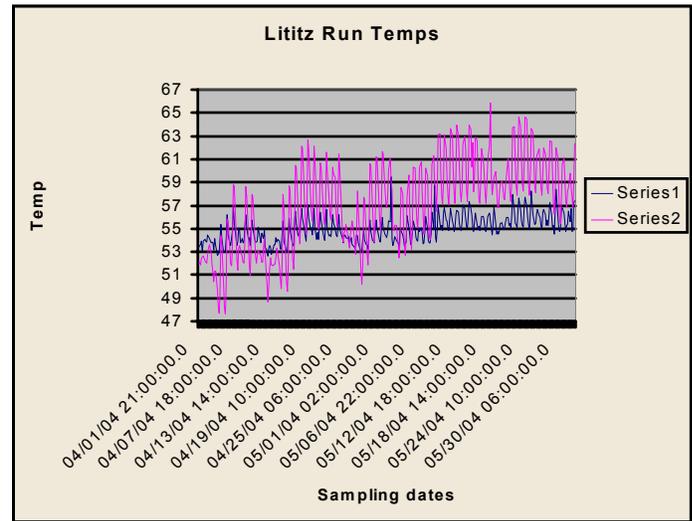
Warmer temperatures early in the year usually mean less trout later in the summer for most streams. At least this is the case for most streams in Lancaster County. One way we at the Conservation District try to reduce the increase thermal pollution to streams in the county is by promoting riparian buffers or forested buffer strips along streams to reduce overall water temps. The decreased water temperature is not only good for cold water species of fish like trout but also increases the amount of oxygen in water. Colder water holds more oxygen than warmer water thus more oxygen for the aquatic life to breathe. All of these factors are needed for a healthy cold water fishery not only in Lancaster County but any where in the state.

One study DTU and the Lititz Run Watershed Alliance are currently dealing with is monitoring stream temps along Lititz Run over a series of summers. The monitoring efforts are being used to evaluate the potential of Lititz Run as a long term naturally reproducing trout stream. If the water temps are not exceeding the maximum threshold for trout to survive over the summer months the potential for natural reproduction of trout might be possible. In order to find out what the stream temps are several temperature probes have been strategically placed throughout the watershed to monitor temps. The probes have a small computer chip in them that records stream temps every four hours. By looking at the daily fluxes in temperature the groups can determine a great deal. In some locations in the watershed temperatures are fluctuating 10 degrees in one day from morning to mid afternoon. This obviously could be a problem for trout and might need to be dealt with. Below is one such example of the data the groups are obtaining. The line with greater variation is at Riparian Park and the other line with little change is close to the original spring source.

National TU

Western Water Project

Wild and native trout need water, every day. They need enough water to hide from predators, find food, migrate and reproduce. In many parts of the West, where water is scarce, there's not enough water left in rivers to support robust trout populations; and



sometimes, there's not enough water for any fish at all.

Western water laws place little value on water that is not diverted for human purposes. Consequently, mining, agricultural and municipal users often drain rivers dry during certain times of the year. Shortage of water, and dramatic alterations to natural flow patterns, are some of the primary reasons why many of the West's native cutthroat and wild trout species, as well as almost all western salmon and steelhead populations, are in trouble.

Of all the threats to trout and salmon, the issue of leaving enough water in rivers is perhaps the most difficult to address. There's an old saying in the West that still holds true: "Whiskey's for drinkin', but water's for fightin'." Legal rights for water left in the rivers - "instream flows" -- are either not recognized by states, or are of low priority in a legal system that gives highest priority for use to people who hold the oldest (most "senior") rights.

To tackle the problem of dry and depleted rivers in the West, Trout Unlimited (TU) started the Western Water Project in 1997. In partnership with WaterWatch of Oregon, TU opened offices in Montana and Colorado staffed with experienced water law attorneys. The goal of these offices is to protect and restore water in rivers for healthy fisheries and to open up state decisions on water allocation to meaningful public participation.

The success of the Western Water Project's efforts in Colorado and Montana has led to the opening of additional offices in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and California.

3 Month Chapter Planner

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Subject</u>
July	Board Meeting	Wed. 7/14 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 7/21-6:00 PM	Bob Bachman Residence	Picnic Chapter Meting
August	Board Meeting	Wed. 8/11 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 8/18-6:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Picnic Chapter Meting
September	Board Meeting	Wed. 9/8 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Fly Fishing Expo	Wed. 9/11-9:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Ned Bushong Farm	Fly Fishing Expo
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 9/15-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites	"Restoring Shad to the Susquehanna River Basin" by Gil Hirschel

An "UnBelizeable" Adventure (Part 1)

(Continued from page 8)

hook into something soon (how many times have you heard that?).

I felt heavy weight on the other end but didn't see the fish. Some line went out and off to my far right, I saw this large Tarpon jump. I said, "Did you see THAT?" I looked back at Jose and he had a huge grin on his face and said, "That's your fish, Miss". I could hardly believe it. How did it get over there so fast? Line really started to peel out now and I tightened the drag as Jose started the motor. After about an hour of applying side pressure in various directions and following Nick's experienced guidance, I finally started to see my fly line, not just backing. The fish jumped spectacularly 4 or 5 times and I managed a bow (or curtsy?) as required. Later I was dismayed to see the fish wrapped in the leader, thinking for sure I'd lose him. I had him hooked in the upper snout, and Jose said that is the best way to have them hooked, which was a comforting thought. My wrist was really starting to hurt and my abdomen was so bruised, I couldn't find a comfortable place for the rod butt. The heavens opened up again and I struggled to keep my contact lenses on my eyes as salty water ran into them. A few times I told Nick I didn't know how much more my wrist could take, but he said, "You are going to land this fish!". Then, the sun came out, and Nick helped me off with my jacket as the fight continued. Finally, at about 2 hours into it, the fish neared the boat. Now the real fun began.

Once the fish neared the boat, he would circle it, go under it, go around the bow or stern, dive, etc. A few times, Nick saved my rod from sure demise by grabbing it, paying out line and pointing the tip in the water, because I had no place to go (fast) when I was in the back of the boat and there were chairs and people in the way. Finally, I could get the tarpon to roll over and he started to gulp air. Nick "oohed and aahed" as he saw just how big a Tarpon it was. Nick caught one like it last year. Jose was ready with the gaff, but as I strained to lift the head up, I couldn't sustain the lift for more than a few seconds and the fish thrashed as soon as he saw the big hook. After four gaff attempts, including one that ripped out, the gaff was lost overboard in a fifth attempt. I was starting to feel a bit panicked. Now what? I offered Jose my gloves, but they didn't help. I suggested somehow roping the fish. Jose got a length of rope and tied a bowline in it. Nick saw that I could no longer lift the fish, so he took the rod up to the casting platform in the bow and lifted the Tarpon high as Jose tied the rope around the tail. To my utter

(Continued on page 3)



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Mayflyer

An “UnBelizeable” Adventure (Part 1)

By Deirdre “Fishingmaniac” Lehman

I don't fish saltwater much. But now I guess you could say I'm a convert. Nine of us ventured to Belize, C.A. (that's Central America, not Canada or California) the last week in March to fish the flats, mangroves and reefs of the Caribbean. We stayed at the Belize River Lodge (BRL), a beautiful mahogany lodge embraced by palms and coconut trees, tropical flowers and birds of every description. Howler monkeys (which we heard) and tapirs sometimes ventured in close to us in the jungle behind the lodge. And there was a resident crocodile. While only 10 minutes from the airport, it seemed a world away as we had to cross the Belize River by boat to get there. We enjoyed the local Belikin beer as we got settled in.

On our first day, Moirajeanne (MJ) Fitzgerald and I went out to the Tarpon flats and mangroves in pursuit of Tarpon and Snook, but after several passing cold fronts and rain, the fish must have been confused. We found a nice bonefish flat and soon discovered what our guide, Jose, meant by “tailing fish” and “nervous water”. A large group of bones were visible about 50 feet in front of the boat. My first cast was a little too far to the left, so Jose said to cast again. With no false cast, I shot the line back to the right. “Strip, strip, strip” said Jose, in

an urgent but soft voice, and a moment later I hooked my first bone! It seemed just like TV: reel screaming, I was into backing in a hurry above aqua water so blue you have to see it to believe it. MJ got a bone also, so we were both elated that we had broken the ice.

The next day, I went out with Nick DelleDonne and Jose. The skies looked ominous, and there was a heavy downpour out in Tarpon Cove. So we headed for the shelter of the nearby marina where the BRL keeps one of its two motherships, in this case the *Christina*, which was in the process of an overhaul. We waited on board the *Christina* for the rain to subside, and after the skiff was bailed, went back out in pursuit of Tarpon. We could see several rolling, their pectoral fins clearly visible. Nick was up first. Casting is done from a 23 ft skiff with an outboard and poled by the guides when near the quarry. Nick got a hit on a weighted giant black woolly buggler type fly. We were startled to see he had caught a catfish! I didn't know there were catfish in salty water. I was now up, casting a 10 wt Loomis with an orange grizzly Seaducer. After a couple of casts and strips, I felt a thud and kept my hand still. Nick said he could “feel” I was going to

(Continued on page 7)