

Mayflyer

July 2005

V34-I4

www.donegaltu.org

The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

Chapter Meeting Recap

Wednesday
June 15th
6 PM

Millport Con-
servancy

Program
Picnic Meeting
with the Doc
Fritchey
Chapter

April Chapter Meeting by Bob Wyble

If you like peace and quiet while you fish, **Dwight Landis**, author of *Trout Streams of Pennsylvania*, has an answer for you. Get away from the crowds and look for wild trout in tributaries of the larger more popular streams. There are hundreds of small streams across the state that hold populations of wild trout. How do you find these streams? Dwight recommends going to the internet and looking up topographical maps on the following web site www.topozone.com.

For example, to check out the upper reaches of **Kettle Creek** for wild trout go to the web site above and type in Oleona, PA. A menu will come up showing Oleona, Potter County. Click on Oleona and a topo map will appear showing Kettle Creek. Pretty neat! Using this web site you can type in the name of any village you like and find topographical maps with backcountry roads leading to many tributaries.

Mr. Landis noted that native trout are different from wild trout. The only **native trout** in Pennsylvania is the **brook trout** while wild trout may be any trout that has been born in the wild and not stocked by a hatchery. Wild trout, including native brook trout, have bright, vivid colors and the fins have clean sharp edges. Stocked trout are dull in color and their fins are rounded from living in crowded conditions in a hatchery.

Small streams are usually lined with trees so it is best to use a smaller rod such as a 7.5 ft, 4 wt rod. Making less false casts and watching the back cast helps to avoid getting hung up in trees. For good results walk past flat water and look for pools with overhead cover and stream banks that are under cut. Watch for thunderstorms when the water temperature is near 60 degrees and fish the day after a thunderstorm when fish are less spooky and feed more aggressively.

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protecting and restoring
the trout streams and
watersheds of
Lancaster County

Mr. Landis offered some excellent advice for fishing tough streams such as **Slate Run**, **Cedar Run** and **Penn's Creek**. Fish for brown trout in Slate Run early in the morning, at dusk or after a rain. Try Cedar Run (tributary of Pine Creek) above Latonia. Don't fish Penn's Creek in the middle of the day on bright clear days. Try fishing after 7:00 in the evening for better results.

Other streams recommended by Dwight Landis include **Lick Run** in Clinton County north of Lock Haven, which has 6.5 miles of backcountry. The best fishing is in the middle of this stretch where there are more pools. **Lebo's Run** (tributary of Young Woman's creek) is another good stream, which has brook trout in the upper reaches and brown trout in the lower end. **Mosquito Creek** and **Trout Run** (Clearfield County) have acid water, but brook trout are tolerant of acid water in these streams and are worth the effort using terrestrials such as ants and beetles. The **west branch of the Schuylkill** has some large brook trout and **Larry's Creek** near Williamsport is worth a look in the upper reaches.

Pennsylvania has many streams, which hold populations of wild trout, and many of these streams have very little pressure from anglers. If you take the time to look at some topographical maps and do some exploring you can find wild trout for an enjoyable fly-fishing experience away from the crowds.

May Chapter Meeting by Deirdre Lehman
Gil Hirshel, Susquehanna River Basin Commission outreach coordinator presented information on the Shad Restoration work on the the Susquehanna. Gil holds a BS degree in Environmental Science and a master's degree in regional planning. His presentation was especially

(Continued on page 7)

Special
Olympics
Fishing
Derby

Saturday
August 13th

8:30 AM

Speedwell
Forge Lake
Lititz



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report:

by **Bob Wyble**

Thanks to all who voted **yes** for Growing Greener Grants in Pennsylvania. Funds from Growing Greener Grants will enable us to continue our efforts to improve water quality in streams in Lancaster County.

Favorable weather conditions and grant approvals have finally permitted us to complete the Gochenauer Project on Shearer's Run this spring. Landstudies, Inc. used logs and rocks to improve in-stream habitat and DTU members planted trees and sowed grass seed to help stabilize stream banks.

Rettew Associates has been doing over flights this spring to collect data before leaves have developed on the trees in the Conowingo Watershed. **Dee Lehman** will be setting up a second meeting with local government officials and residents to bring everyone up to date on work needing to be done on this project. While there was some skepticism at the first meeting we are hopeful that landowners will see the benefits of reducing the silt and phosphate load in the Conowingo Creek. Thank you Dee for all your efforts to bring everyone together and keep a positive spin on this very important project in southern Lancaster County.

The Big Brother/Big Sister Fishing Derby on April 29th was another successful event. Seventeen little brothers and sisters showed up at the Spring Trout Fish Farm in New Holland to fish for trout. All the little brothers and sisters were successful in catching their limit of 5 trout and owner **Jim Martin** filleted all the fish for each child to take home.

I would like to thank **Dave Chalfant** for organizing the program again this year and thanks to **Bill Billett** for grilling hot dogs and setting up the picnic. I would also like to thank **Doc Besecker, Jim Stephens Sr., Jim Stephens Jr., Bill Middleton, Don Shaw, Roy Crawford, Dale Ashcroft, Tom Tedrow, Kevin Fausey, Bob and Barb Geibe, Chuck Elmer, and Wayne Boggs** for coming out to serve as fishing coaches for the children. This is always a fun filled evening but it could not happen without the help of DTU volunteers to coach the children.

Fifth grade students from the Warwick School District potted 650 tree seedlings at Millport Conservancy on Watershed Day, which was held on May 10. I would like to thank **Kevin Fausey, Tom Tedrow** and **Bill Middleton** for teaching the children how to pot seedlings. Not only did the children learn how to get their hands dirty and pot tree seedlings, they also learned why conservation is important and how trees can help stabilize stream banks and prevent erosion.

HOBO temperature probes have been installed in Lititz Run to monitor water temperature again this year. Temperatures will be recorded from April 1 until October 31. We want to compare temperatures this year with last year to see how consistent water temperatures are in Lititz Run from one year to the next.

I am pleased to report that the board agreed to contribute \$1000 to the Lancaster Conservancy to purchase wooded land in Lancaster County. This year the conservancy is planning to purchase wooded land along Fishing Creek, Trout Run and land for a natural outdoor classroom in West Lampeter.

Matt Kofroth (Watershed Specialist for Lancaster County) reports that he has found an increasing number of Mayflies in Lititz Run this year. And even more exciting he reports finding young wild brown trout in Lititz Run. Last year I received several reports of people catching 6-inch trout. Matt's report of young wild brown trout provides evidence that some reproduction of trout is beginning to happen in Lititz Run. All the work in Lititz Run over the last 10 plus years is beginning to show dividends. Now we need to monitor and maintain the work we have done.

Mark your calendar for the **Special Olympics Program** at Speedwell Forge on Saturday, **August 13**. We need volunteers to help with this program. Check the web page <http://www.donegaltsu.org/home.asp> for more details.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS



Summer Programs

Chairman: Ted Downs

June's program will be a Picnic Meeting at the Millport Conservancy. We will be hosting the Doc Fritchey Chapter for our annual joint chapter meeting. The picnic will begin at 6 PM, but feel free to show up as early as 4 PM if you'd like to wet a line on Lititz Run with some of the Doc Fritchey members. This year there will be **no Chapter Meeting for the month of July**. The program for August will be another Picnic meeting (6 PM) at Bob Bachman's residence at Blue Lake near Reinholds. Directions to Bob's place 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.

Membership Committee

Chairman: Bill Billett

At the end of April total membership for the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited stands at **529**. This is up from 521 for the month of March; and up from 511 for April 2004. Please join me in welcoming the following new members to our Chapter: **Terry Ench** and **Dave Heckal Jr.** of Lititz; **Clyde Mease**, **Gerald Lewis Jr.**, **Joseph Parr**, and **Todd Newman** of Lancaster; **Nathan Ervin** from New Holland; and **Doug Aungst** from Ephrata

For all of you fishermen out there, don't forget to button hole some of those people you run into on the streams or at the local watering hole and ask them to get involved with the best fresh water organization out there Trout Unlimited. Remember the slogan "**Join Trout Unlimited, where the benefits of membership last for millions of years**".

Education Committee

Chairman: Dave Chalfant

A big "**THANK YOU**" goes to all the DTU volunteers who helped with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Fishing Derby this year. Seventeen "little brothers/little sisters"

participated in the fishing derby. We had great weather and all the kids caught their limit (which kept Spring TROUT Fish Farm owner **Jim Martin** busy cleaning and filleting). A special thanks also goes to Wal-Mart and Trout Run Sports for their contributions to the fishing derby.

Our next event is the fishing derby for the athletes who participate in the Special Olympics. The date is **SATURDAY: AUGUST 13th**. The time is 9 AM to 1 PM (we ask volunteers to be there by 8:30 AM). The location is **Speedwell Forge Lake** (off of Route 501, north of Lititz). This is our 5th year to participate in this fishing derby which is also sponsored by the Lancaster County Special Olympics Committee and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. We need volunteers to help the athletes (some have never fished before; all of the fishing is with spin casting rods). This is a very rewarding experience for the volunteers as well as the participants. Please contact Dave Chalfant (859-2906) or Faye Haering (285-2572) if you can help as a volunteer for this event.

What kind of Trout is that?

by Matt Krofroth

Many of us have been out fishing and caught a small trout and may have had trouble figuring out just what species it is. Juvenile trout often look very similar if you are not sure what to look for.

Well, thanks to our fisheries expert Mr. Bob Bachman hopefully the information below will help us all in the future.

Brown Trout - If a trout has any red spots at all, or a red adipose fin, it is a brown trout. Few or no black spots on the tail is another good indicator. Also, yellow fins are yet another good clue for a brown trout juvenile.

Brook Trout – They also have red spots but **NO** black spots.

Rainbow Trout – These guys never have any red spots or a red adipose fin. Also, their tail is always heavily spotted. Rainbow fins are usually white or tipped with white. Finally, the black spots the rainbows do have are usually finer than the ones on a brown trout and more numerous.

Bottom Line: Red spots and black spots=brown trout, red spots but no black spots=brook trout, and no red spots=rainbow trout.

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Fly Of The Month

“Letort Hopper”
Submitted by Rick Takahashi
Originated by Ed Shenk
from www.flyfisherman.com



Description

The Letort Hopper was developed by Ed Shenk for Pennsylvania streams, but has since then become a standard pattern for fishing the West. This fly has caught hundreds of trout for me and can also mimic several other insects like caddisflies and adult stoneflies.

Recipe:

HOOK: Tiemco 5210 #8-16.

THREAD: Yellow 6/0.

BODY: Golden yellow dubbing.

WING: Deer hair and mottled turkey.

HEAD: Spun, clipped deer hair.

Tying Instructions

Dub a tapered body 2/3 of the length of the hook. Cut out a section of wing material approximately two times the width of the body and slightly longer than the length of the body. Cut rear portion into a V shape. Tie in at the thorax area. Cut deer hair from hide at the base and pull any under fur from the portion cut off. Stack the hair to even the tips. Measure the deer hair so that the tips extend just beyond the tail of the fly. Trim the butt section of the deer even with the eye of the fly. The original pattern calls for a spun deer hair cooler, I like to have the fly sit lower in the surface film so I do not spin the deer hair around the hook. I just tie it down much like an Elk-hair Caddis. Cement the thread to add durability.



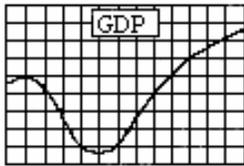
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for your continued
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WHAT'S NEW AT:

Lancaster County Conservation District: by Matthew Kofroth

With summer here fishing is in full swing. We are truly blessed in Lancaster County to have so many great local streams to fish in. A great deal of the thanks for how these streams look and how they fish should go to the 13 local volunteer watershed groups throughout the county that have been doing a tremendous job on restoring these streams. If you are new to the area or new to DTU you owe it to yourself and the future fishing potential of Lancaster County to check out some of our local groups. They are doing a great job with very little money and sometimes even fewer volunteers. So get out there and get active in these local groups. I guarantee you will get a sense of pride and accomplishment for a job well done.

Local groups looking for Volunteers:

Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance – looking for volunteers to help do some stream water monitoring testing. (www.raphotownship.com)

Cocalico Creek Watershed Association – always in need of folks for stream cleanups, stream walks, and future stream work.

Conoy Creek Watershed Group – a new group looking to tackle problems associated with the Conoy Cr. Watershed.

Donegal Fish & Conservation Association – a more established group that is looking for some new help for annual events. (www.donegalfish.com)

Furnace Run/Segloch Run Watershed Alliance – the only county group working on protecting a High Quality and Exceptional Value stream.

Hammer Creek Watershed Association – a great group of guys that have already done a great deal of work but have big plans for the future.

Lititz Run Watershed Alliance – once again a more established group but one always looking for new volunteer blood. (www.warwicktownship.org)

Little Chiques Creek Watershed Association – a fairly new group that is really starting to take off and has a very bright future. (www.littlechiqueswatershed.com)

Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance – a group that has really established a name for itself in the county and is looking for big things down the road. (www.littleconestoga.org)

Mill Creek Preservation Association – a farmer oriented group dealing with a highly agricultural watershed.

Octoraro Watershed Association – a storied group that

is always doing great work in southern Lancaster and Chester Counties. (www.owanet.com)

Paradise Sportsman Association – another group of great guys doing great work in a mostly agricultural setting.

Tri-County Conewago Creek Association – a new organization that has quickly made a name for themselves. (www.conewagocreek.net)

Lititz Run Monitoring Report

Finally, in early May the annual spring macroinvertebrate and fish sampling was conducted on Lititz Run. Some items that may be of interest to those of you that fish Lititz Run. Baetidae mayflies were fairly prevalent at every site sampled, along with sowbugs, scuds, and small tan/green caddisflies. During the fish survey several lunkers were netted along with several wild brown trout. (See pictures) Goes to show you what a good watershed group, local partnerships, a great TU chapter, and lot of work can accomplish. Way to go!



Wild Brown Trout



What A Rainbow - 22"

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. 7/13-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	<u>No Chapter Meeting in July</u>			
August	Board Meeting	Wed. 8/10-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 8/17-6:00 PM	Bob Bachman's Residence	Picnic Meeting
September	Board Meeting	Wed. 9/14-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 9/21-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites	TBD

Backcasts

Chapter Meeting Recap (Continued from page 1)

timely given DTU's fish passage design project on a dam on the Conestoga to allow shad to migrate upstream.

American shad were once a huge market fish. In 1890, 20,000 metric tons were harvested. Due to dam building to power mills, the industrial revolution, pollution, and over-harvesting, shad numbers dropped to less than 5,000 metric tons by 1910. Between 1904 and 1932, four major dams were built on the Susquehanna: Conowingo; Safe Harbor; York Haven; and Holtwood. However, hundreds of smaller dams on other tributaries were also built that blocked shad migrations.

American shad are anadromous, migrating to the open ocean and coming back into fresh water bays and rivers to spawn. During the spring spawning run, they migrate north along the coast and summer in the Bay of Fundy in the north Atlantic, dropping down to locations in the south off North Carolina and Florida in the fall. Most die after spawning, but a few do return after spawning.

Efforts to bring historic shad runs back to the Susquehanna Basin include building partnerships, closing of the Maryland fishery in 1980, culture and release of fry and removing dams. A commission of several federal, state and regional entities is responsible for this restoration: PA Fish and Boat Commission, Maryland DNR, New York Division of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, various utilities, the Susquehanna Basin Commission and others continue their work with the goal of having natural runs about 20 years from now without having to stock fry. The massive effort is expensive. The fish lift alone at the Conowingo Dam cost \$25 million!

Mr. Hirshel explained the fry rearing process that takes place in Juniata at the Van Dyke hatchery. Spawn and eggs are taken from wild stocks, primarily from the Delaware River system. Tetracycline marks the otolith (ear bone) of the fish so that returning fish that have been cultured can be distinguished from naturally reproducing fish.

Fish elevators at the Conowingo, Safe Harbor, and York Haven dams now help the shad get by these massive dams. In Sunbury, a "fabridam" is deflated during spawning runs. Gil noted that at some dams, fish passage is hampered by overflow that confuses the fish seeking current to help direct them toward passage devices. Survival of down migrants is surprisingly high, at 75%.

We would like to thank Gil for his enlightening presentation on this most amazing fish and important restoration effort.



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Mayflyer

Federal Judge Rejects Bush Administration's Plan To Manage Dams and Salmon (from www.tu.org)

Portland, Oregon - 5/27/05

National salmon and trout conservation group Trout Unlimited (TU) today applauded the opinion issued Thursday by U.S. District Court Judge James A. Redden on the Columbia and Snake River federal hydropower system's impact on imperiled salmon and steelhead trout. The opinion soundly rejects the Bush administration's attempts to use legal technicalities to evade its responsibilities to restore the basin's great runs of salmon and steelhead. Trout Unlimited is one of several plaintiffs in the case.

"Judge Redden's decision is good news for Columbia and Snake river salmon," said Jeff Curtis, western conservation director for Trout Unlimited. "The federal agencies had crafted a plan for salmon based on smoke and mirrors and designed to maintain the status quo. This decision will force the region to develop a plan that actually addresses the hydropower system's effect on salmon head-on and work together on a biologically and legally sound approach to restoring these magnificent

fish." Judge Redden's ruling specifically rejects the administration's claim that it was not required to address all of the impacts of the dams, even if the result of that approach would lead to extinction. He also reaffirmed the federal government's responsibility to go beyond preventing extinction and to take the steps necessary to recover the salmon and steelhead of the Columbia and the Snake rivers.

Thursday's ruling marks the third time in just over a decade that a federal plan to manage the Columbia-Snake dams has been rejected by a federal court. In 1995, U.S. District Court Judge Malcolm Marsh chided the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for its Pacific Northwest salmon recovery efforts, saying they were "too heavily geared towards a status quo...when the situation literally cries out for a major overhaul." "Over a decade ago, Judge Marsh called for a major overhaul, and to date we haven't seen it," said Curtis. "We hope with today's ruling that the time has come to bring meaning to his words."