

Mayflyer

June 2003

V32-I6

www.donegaltu.org

The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

Chapter Meeting Recap 5/21/03:

by **Scott Trefny**

Vice President Bill Billett opened the May meeting with 30 members in attendance. Wayne Boggs reported a profit of \$25,000 for the spring Banquet. Thanks for the great effort by all involved. We now need to put this money to work to benefit cold water conservation. Keep a copy of the newsletter available or check out the DTU web site to see if there is a time when you can get involved in a project.

Our speaker for the evening was an old friend, **Karl Waixlmann**, a steelhead guide from Erie, PA. His program was "*Fly Fishing Steelhead Alley*". Steelhead Alley covers a geographical area from the Cattaraugus Creek in NY to the Conneaut Creek and

the Grand River in Ohio. These are all tributaries of Lake Erie. Karl guides 100 days a year on these waters and knows all of them well. He starts the October season on his favorite stream, the Cattaraugus. The fishing conditions vary greatly in this area because of the weather conditions, especially rainfall. As water levels rise after a rainfall, the fish begin to move upstream. This may also trigger feeding. But as water levels drop and the waters clear, the fish become very spooky and are difficult to catch. This is when a good guide earns his money. Karl not only knows the best water, but he knows what flies to use

under all conditions. I can attest to this from personal experience.

Not all of the streams, rivers and creeks have naturally reproducing fish. Most of the PA waters have slate bottoms with no spawning gravel. PA stocks over 1,000,000 smolt per year into these waters. There is also a five

fish per day limit. To Karl, that seems excessive especially since the PAFBC warns us not to eat more than one meal per month!

Guides also help clients with equipment selections.

I am sure Karl would provide a client with the right stuff, but most fisherman have a 6wt – 8wt rod and

reel combination that would work for these fish. A knowledgeable guide offers daily adjustments in flies and techniques to meet the changing conditions. During high water, large flies work best, but during low and clear conditions; small nymphs may be the ticket. Karl showed us some of these patterns and discussed the proper techniques for fishing them. The photography was fantastic. I can't wait to get back to these waters. Karl's son Kyle helped with this interesting and informative presentation. Thank you Karl for coming to Lancaster and sharing your knowledge.



Wednesday
June 18th
6:00 PM

Lititz Run
Millport
Conservancy

Picnic Dinner
Meeting:
Plus WGAL's
Doug Allen and
his "Backyard
Weather Show"

Upcoming
Chapter
Activities

Fly Fishing
EXPO
&
Picnic Dinner

Wed 8/20
3 to 9 PM

Hopland
Farm
(near)
Brickerville

See Page 2
for details



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report:

by **Bob Wyble**

Winter dreams of trout rising to a perfect presentation have become tight lines with a fish on during May. Healthy trout in clean water with a good source of food do not happen by accident. We have made excellent progress on **Lititz Run** in the last 10 years thanks to a lot of work from volunteers in DTU and funding from PA Growing Greener grants. As work continues on Lititz Run we now look for opportunities on other streams in Lancaster County.

I am pleased to report that DTU has contributed **\$1000 to the Furnace Run/Seglock Run Watershed Alliance**, adding to funding from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership sponsored by PA Trout for improvements on Furnace Run and Seglock Run in northern Lancaster County. These streams come together on Hopeland Farm and are capable of holding wild trout. We look forward to becoming more involved in improving both Furnace Run and Seglock Run to maintain a wild trout population.

I want to thank **Dave Chalfant** for organizing an excellent **Big Brother/Big Sister Fishing Derby** at Spring Trout Farm in New Holland on May 2. We had the highest turn out ever with 18 little brothers and sisters catching trout and eating hot dogs.

On May 13 three hundred sixty five 5th-grade students from the Warwick School District participated in **Warwick Watershed Day**. Students and their teachers were involved in a variety of activities, which included stream chemistry, wetland ecology, fish identification, etc. Children working with **Vickie Wilson** (Greg's wife) planted 450 trees seedlings in Linear Park. Thank you **Vickie** for coordinating this activity.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, **August 20th, 3 to 9 PM**. DTU will hold its first ever **Fly Fishing Exposition** at

Hopeland Farm near Brickerville. Participating fly shops in the Expo will include: **The Evening Rise Fly Fishing Outfitters; TCO Fly Shop (Tulpenhocken Creek Outfitters); and Quiet Times Fly Shop**. You will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from fly rod manufacturers and check out all the latest equipment. Staff from fly-fishing outfitters will be available to answer your questions about rods, reels, fly tying materials etc. Fly-fishing supplies will also be available for purchase so be sure to bring your checkbook. Professional fly tiers will demonstrate techniques for tying flies and will have flies available for purchase. DTU will provide a picnic. In addition, this will also be our annual Joint Chapter Meeting with the Doc Fritchey Chapter. This is one event this summer you will not want to miss. Mark your calendar today!

Spruce Creek Trips:

by **Gary Roulston**

Thanks to the generosity and hospitality of Chapter Members **Bill Harris** and **Dan Keller** (also members of the Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club) we will once again be able to offer opportunities for up to 8 DTU members to spend two weekends fishing (and living in the lap of luxury!) at the exclusive **Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club**. The trip dates are **August 22-24** and **September 12-14**. Arrive after noon on Friday, fish Friday afternoon and evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning. All meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch are included. The fishing is of course fabulous! The cost is \$275/person per weekend. \$175 is the cost for room & board and fishing privileges; \$100 is a donation to DTU. It's a great opportunity. Contact Scott Trefny for details.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS



Education Committee

Chairman: Dave Chalfant

Members: Tyler Hudock; Faye Haering



On Saturday, May 2, DTU held its annual Big Brothers / Big Sisters fishing derby at the Spring Trout Fish Farm. We had 18 (the most ever) “little brothers & little sisters” attend. Each of them caught their five fish limit and took home fresh trout fillets thanks to the trout farm owner, Jim Martin. This is

also a very rewarding experience for the DTU volunteers. It is hard to say who has more fun: the kids or the volunteers who help. We also had a hot dog and fixins cookout for all the attendees. Our thanks to Cheri Crouse, the BB & BS coordinator, and all of the Big Brothers & Big Sisters for their part in making this event successful. Also, a big **Thank You** to all of the DTU volunteers who attended and helped. This is an annual event so plan on volunteering next year. You will be glad you did.

Saturday, June 7, is the Lancaster County Youth Field Day. Hopefully they will have good weather for this all day event. Thanks to Kevin Fausey for organizing our participation and representing DTU at the planning meetings. Also, thanks to all of the



volunteers who are helping with this event.

Membership Committee Report

Chairman: Jim Stephens

Members: Herb Weston

The membership report for this month will be short and to the point. We would like to **Welcome** two new members, **Jeffrey Musser** from Willow Street and **David Henderson** of Lancaster. This brings our total Chapter membership up to **485**.

Program Committee

Chairman: Ted Downs

June Picnic Dinner Chapter Meeting

Our upcoming June Chapter Meeting on Wednesday 6/18 will feature WGAL’s Doug Allen and his Backyard Weather show live from the Millport Conservancy, beginning at **6 PM**. So, in addition to our usual **Free Food**, you could also end up being a TV star! Mark your calendar now, so you don’t miss this gala event, and bring a friend. See you there!

Terror On The Stream

(Continued from page 7)

to get an enlightening look. It was a Bull Trout. A big nasty Bull Trout. Bull Trout have notorious appetites and are known for their carnivorous ways. They much prefer other fish over insects.

Now, all I had to do was figure out how to get an arm-sized fish into my midget-sized net. Normally, I don’t net large fish. I leave them in the water, slide my hand down the leader and tippet and just twist the hook out of their mouths. Sometimes that results in a bent hook, but this time I was more concerned about my fingers rather than the fly. A Bull Trout’s teeth can constitute a lethal weapon.

I took me another five minutes before I finally worked the fish in close enough to consider ending the fight. There was no way I could get more than half the fish in the net, but I figured I could use my forceps, reach into the water, grab the fly and release the fish before it could make a meal out of my hand.

As the fish swung across in front of me, I slipped the net into the water, tucked the rod under my arm and reached down with the forceps. Just as I began to feel for the fly, that big, nasty Bull Trout just opened its mouth, spit out the Whitefish and swam slowly away.

I NEVER HAD THAT FISH HOOKED! Throughout the entire fight, the Bull Trout had just been hanging onto the Whitefish refusing to release it to me and my little, “sissy rod”. Turns out that grizzly bears aren’t the only carnivores in British Columbia. Does this mean I now have to tie ten-inch flies and use pepper spray on the fish?

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Ken Reinard, our catalog manager, has spent months turning one room in our shop into a fly tying room that is sure to please discriminating fly tiers. It's filled to the brim with fly tying materials and we have even more on the way for spring of 2003. In addition to the tying materials, Ken has decorated the room with his personal collection of capes and pelts—it's almost like walking into a museum. The room is brilliantly lit by full-spectrum bulbs that allow you to study the tying materials under light that is nearly as bright as sunlight. To best preserve the vivid colors of the materials, we have a dim light system that is used at all times except when we have clients in the shop. In addition to the new tying room, we have a classic tackle room that features a number of new and used cane rods, reels, and vintage rod hardware. As always, we inventory the largest supply of rodmaking tools and components in the region. We cordially invite you to visit our shop. We're open by appointment, Monday-Thursday, 8-4. Beginning in February, we're starting Open Shop Fridays...just walk in 8-4 each Friday. Ken is 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 right.

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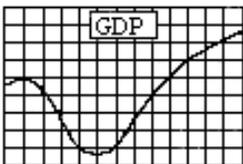
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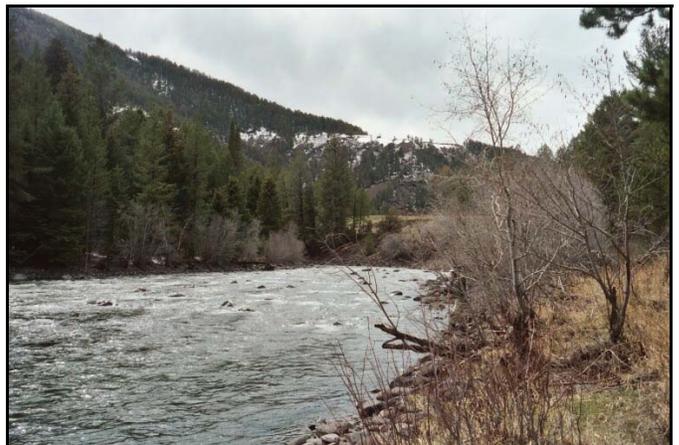
April 29-May 11, 2003

By Scott Trefny

This year's spring trip to Wyoming and Montana started with the anticipation of warm weather, large numbers of midges and Baetis mayflies swarming on the water's surface and the trout feeding with abandon! Reality set in as soon as we arrived in Billings. The weather changed every few hours. We had it all: rain, snow, sleet, hail, wind, and very little sun. It was spring in the West!

After renting our vehicles we all left Billings for Cody, Wyoming to spend a few days at the Irma Hotel, a hotel built by Buffalo Bill Cody for his daughter of the same name. The hotel has a great atmosphere with clean rooms and is close to the local fly shop, The North Fork Angler. It is a great place for local fishing information. We planned to fish the lower Shoshone River in town, but it was high and off color. So we first tried the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone. The fishing was slow and the wind and rain made for difficult casting. Happy hour at the Irma was the best part of the day!

The next day we packed up and went to the **North Fork of the Shoshone River** toward the Park. What a beautiful river! Not only was the fishing a lot of fun, but the scenery was spectacular. Ospreys, herons and mergansers patrolled the river. We saw mule deer, sheep, elk, bison and an eagle. What a Day! The next day we decided to go to the Bighorn with a stop at Newton Lake. We had good fishing there for 18"-24" rainbows on egg patterns and also on dries.



(Continued on page ii)

(Continued from page i)

When we got to Camp 6X, the fishing reports were not so good. The numbers of trout were down because of the drought. There were big fish, but two or three age classes of fish were missing. The little fish have nowhere to hide from the predatory browns when they are forced to swim in the main channels. All we can hope for is to have plenty of rain in the valleys and snow in the mountains to replenish the water in the dam. The fishing was slow. There were olives and some midge fishing in the evening. A ten fish day was a good day. We all had some good days and some poor days. **Greg Wilson and I** decided to do a road trip to Livingston and Bozeman to see **Jack Heckles** and **John Banta** and to fish the Yellowstone and the Stillwater. The Mother's Day caddis hatch was on and the fishing was good. I think I caught more western whitefish than trout until I learned where the trout were located. However, they are both a lot of fun to catch on a light rod. I even got a chance to soak in the hot water of Chico Hot Springs south of town. On the way back to the Bighorn we stopped to tour the Stillwater River. The caddis hatch was on and we caught a lot of fish and it was a beautiful day.



When we returned to the **Bighorn** the fishing was still tough, but the food was great and so was the fellowship. We all fished hard and caught some nice fish. Most of the trout on this river are in the 18"-20" range and are strong fighters. Every one of us is ready to return next year. Thank you, **Bob Kutz**, **Greg Wilson** and **Don Reitcha** for your generous hospitality.



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HOOKED-UP

The fly below was obtained from the
Fly Archive @ www.flyfisherman.com
“Ivan's Sulfur (PMD) CDC Emerger/Cripple”
Submitted by: Ivan Wittel (DTU Member)

Description:

This fly represents the emerger or crippled phase of the Sulfur. The pheasant tail abdomen, wound with the yellow tying thread, in combination with the yellow thorax, gives the impression of the body leaving, or trapped in, the nymphal skin. The CDC wing/wingcase imitates



those parts, emerging from the body and provides flotation. This is a simple, effective pattern tied with readily available materials. It's best fished in the film, but if pulled under, the humped CDC wingcase can trap a bit of air, thus increasing the illusion of the emerging insect.

Recipe:

- HOOK:** Daiichi 1110 #16-18
THREAD: Primrose 8/0 or 12/0
TAIL: 3 Center pheasant tail fibers
ABDOMEN: 3 pheasant tail fibers wound with tying thread
THORAX: Yellow Hare/Antron blend
WINGCASE: Med. Dun miniature tuft of CDC
HACKLE: Lt.- Med. Dun soft hackle
WING: Med. Dun miniature tuft of CDC
HEAD: Tying thread

Tying Instructions

1. Attach thread mid-shank, wind to rear of hook.
2. Tie in 3 Pheasant tail fibers 1/2 - 3/4 body length. Do not clip excess.
3. Wind Pheasant tail fibers and tying thread together and then wrap forward to mid-shank. Tie off Pheasant fibers. Clip excess.
4. Tie in miniature CDC tuft. It should not extend past end of body. Do not clip excess. Rather, wrap forward with tying thread 2-3 turns to anchor CDC in thorax area. Bend CDC tuft back to base of wing and bind it down so it faces rear of hook. This will become the wing case.
5. Dub Hare/Antron blend onto thread and wind forward to create thorax. Allow enough room for soft hackle and head.
6. Tie in prepared soft hackle by tip. Wind 1-2 turns and tie off. Distribute fibers evenly to sides and bottom of fly and secure with a few thread wraps.
7. Take CDC tuft and twist it slightly. Bring it forward as wing case. Do not tie it down flat, but rather let it be slightly humped. Clip excess.
8. Form neat head and whip finish.



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WHAT'S NEW AT:

Lancaster County Conservation District: by Matthew Kofroth, Watershed Specialist

Watershed Current Newsletter

Have you ever been interested in learning more about the watershed organizations of Lancaster County and all the great work they are doing? Well the Conservation District has the answer. The District has put together an informative new publication describing each of the 14 watershed groups in the county. Pictures and maps also help explain the work each group is doing. Finally, contact information is given on each group in the hopes of recruiting more volunteers. If you would like a copy of the publication or just want to see what others with similar interest are doing, please contact the District for a free copy of the newsletter. You never know you might get hooked on the watershed initiative.

Annual Lititz Run Stream Monitoring Results

For the past 6 years the Lititz Run Watershed Alliance, Warwick School District, and the Conservation District have been stream sampling Lititz Run to obtain baseline water quality data. In the past, I have included some of the findings in the Mayflyer to help those of you that fish Lititz Run on a regular basis. Well once again I will try and help out your fishing experience with a little inside information.

If you are a DTU member that purchased a badge to fish in the Millport Conservancy or even if you fish below the conservancy here are some tips for you. Try using mid-size gray sowbugs or orange scuds, especially around areas with a lot of aquatic vegetation. Caddis fly nymphs are always safe bet anywhere along Lititz Run as well. Usually tan or and olive green works well. For those dry fly nuts look for baetis mayflies on the surface or the occasional midge hatch. Both can be seen at this time of year. Finally, for those of you that like streamers or egg patterns there are lots of feeder fish in the lower reaches of the creek. Fish like dace and minnows in a variety of sizes are a good choice. Also, sucker eggs are very popular this time of year so try these. Well that's all for this spring's sampling report; hope it helps you catch the "big one."

TU National

TU Needs Your Help to Support the Bingaman Amendment to Fix The Harmful Hydro Provisions in the Senate Energy Bill

Many thanks to those who have already responded to our earlier request for help on the hydropower provisions of the House and Senate energy bills. There is still more work to do. A key vote may soon occur on the Senate floor. Senator Bingaman and other Senators intend to offer a helpful amendment – perhaps as early as the week of June 9th -- to fix Section 511 of the Senate Energy Bill which contains the harmful hydro provisions.

We need you to call or write your Senators today and ask them to support the Bingaman hydro amendment.

The hydropower provisions contained in Section 511 of the Senate energy bill would directly undercut the work that TU volunteers and staff are undertaking to restore rivers via the hydropower dam relicensing process right now, from Maine, to North Carolina, to California. Section 511 would make hydropower licensing slower and more complex, cut the public out of the process, and undermine the most valuable fish-restoring parts of current law. In sum, the bill shifts the balance of power in hydropower relicensings heavily in favor of dam owners and against the health of our rivers.

The Bingaman amendment would establish a fair, balanced alternative process for determining fish and wildlife conservation provisions at hydro dams. It was supported by conservationists, the hydropower industry, and the House of Representatives last year. It should be supported by the Senate this year.

Hydropower interests are not the only ones who use and benefit economically from rivers. Fish and wildlife need healthy rivers. The rivers and waterways of the nation provide more than 557 million days of fishing for 34 million anglers who spend \$41 billion in pursuit of fish. Anglers, boaters, the sport fishing and commercial fishing industries need healthy rivers, and deserve the opportunity to be heard in the relicensing process. **Supporting the Bingaman amendment is a vote for sustaining rivers and fisheries.**

All major fisheries organizations support the Bingaman amendment and oppose Section 511, including the American Fisheries Society, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, American Fly Fishing Trade Association, American Sportfishing Association, Izaak Walton League of America, and BASS/ESPN Outdoors. Please add your voice to the chorus.

We expect the Bingaman amendment to the energy bill to reach the Senate floor for full Senate consideration very soon, so please take a moment now to write or call your Senators. Here's the easiest way to do that:

- Go to the TU website (www.tu.org) and click on to the ***“Support the Bingaman Amendment to Fix Harmful Hydro Provisions in the Senate Energy Bill”*** link in the left margin of the homepage.
- This will take you to the Advocacy area of the TU website where you can use the prewritten letter there or draft your own letter and e-mail it directly to your Senators.

3 Month Chapter Planner

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Subject</u>
June	Lancaster County Youth Field Day	Sat. 6/7-8 AM to 5 PM	Southern Lancaster County Sportsmen	Annual Youth Field Day Activities
	Board Meeting	Wed. 6/11-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 6/18-6:00 PM	Lititz Run Millport Conservancy	Picnic Dinner Meeting plus WGAL's Doug Allen and his Backyard Weather Show!
July	Board Meeting	Wed. 7/9-7:00 PM	Golden Witch Stevens, PA	Normal meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 7/16-6:00 PM	Hammer Creek Lee Good's Farm	Picnic Dinner Meeting
August	Board Meeting	Wed. 8/13-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 8/20- 3:00 PM to 9 PM	Hopeland Farms (near) Brickerville, PA	Picnic Dinner and Fly Fishing Expo

Terror On The Stream

(Continued from page 8)

number of times with no response, so I decided to go down and tied on a Prince nymph with a small shot above it.

I'm a firm believer that inviting-looking pools, where you get no hits, are often the home territory of big fish. So, I just kept drifting the nymph through the fast water and through the dark of the pool. Just about the time I was ready to pick up and move on, the line hesitated and made an unscheduled stop.

I lifted the rod and was fast to a fish, but not a big one. After a couple spirited runs, I coaxed the fish over to my net and could see it was a small Whitefish, maybe ten inches long. I leaned over, slipped the net into the water, and then all hell broke loose. A long, dark shape, about the length of my arm, made a shark-like rush past my left leg, grabbed the Whitefish and headed downstream.

It scared the hell out of me and I said a few things that would burn the hair off a grizzly, like "Holy Dingleberries", or something like that. Line melted off my reel and the little rod looked like a shepherd's crook. This obviously wasn't a cutthroat. The fish finally came to a stop at the foot of the pool, reluctant to leave the safety of the deeper water. Lucky for me, because there was no way I could have stopped the fish if it had it decided to leave home. Then, the fish anchored itself there at the foot of the pool. To get below the fish, I stumbled along the stream bank, tripping over rocks, in my best imitation of a twenty-yard limp, then applied pressure to try to get the fish to move back upstream. Nothing! The fish refused to move.

I applied more pressure, tweaked the line like a guitar string and the fish began to move again, this time upstream. I wasn't so sure I was happy. Did I have the fish or did the fish have me? If the fish had decided not to move, I would probably still be standing in that river in British Columbia. Fortunately, the fish began sprinting around the pool like a greyhound after a rabbit. I just hung on.

After another five minutes of rod pumping excitement, I finally got the fish close enough for me

(Continued on page 3)



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Mayflyer

Terror On The Stream

A Fly Fishing Story by DTU Member Don Shaw

It was a warm autumn afternoon on a small, nameless river in British Columbia. One of those golden days that highlight the calendars of your mind. I was fishing in shorts and slowly making my way upstream, catching and releasing West Slope Cutthroat Trout every few minutes. Most of the fish were in the 12 to 15-inch range; but every once in a while I'd nail a bigger one, but not so big that I couldn't handle it with my 6 1/2-ft. 3-weight rod.

The only thing disturbing my solitude was a general feeling of discomfort due to the local bear alert. The area I was fishing has one of the highest concentrations of grizzlies in North America. Guides and fishermen had already related stories to me about their recent bear confrontations. A dry year and a lack of berries had the bears on the prowl, and the guides were running into them regularly.

They said the best defense was to nail the bears between the eyes with pepper spray. They said they did that when the bears were at a distance of ten to fifteen feet. According to the guides, that would make the bears wet themselves and run away. I can tell you I would have been the one to wet myself if a grizzly came that close!

So every time there was a rustle in the leaves or a twig snapping in the woods behind me, the hair on the back of my neck would come to attention and a feeling of impending doom would come over me. But the fishing was great and you know how that is. Fortunately, my only visitors were deer and a few black bear; and, most of the time, black bears won't bother you. However, sometimes even the neighbor's dog will bite you. Overall, the scenery was breathtaking, the fishing good, life was great and the problems of the modern world were far away. The real reasons we fish.

Two other angling buddies were spread out over the stream, probably not more than a quarter mile from me, but far enough to give each of us plenty of solitude and elbow room. Big ugly flies, like Turk's Tarantula and the Chernobyl Ant, were taking most of the fish. The Cutts were hanging in small pockets along the bank, so I was wading upstream a few feet out in the water. I worked my way around a bend in the river and waded to the head of a foreboding-looking pool where a fast, shallow run emptied in. I cast upstream and ran first the tarantula, and then the ant, down the run and into the pool a

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