

Mayflyer

March 2004

V33-13

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The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

Chapter Meeting Recap 2/18/04: by Scott Trefny

Our February monthly Chapter Meeting was held at the Quality Inn and Suites, on Oregon Pike in Lancaster. Fifty-four members and guests were present for the meeting and to hear our speaker **George Magaro**, an expert on fishing for **American Shad in the Delaware River**.

Committee Chairs addressed some great upcoming events and projects. Please read about them so that you will be able to participate. We have printed a **color brochure** describing the Donegal Chapter to hand out at various DTU sponsored events. We are applying for a **DEP Growing Greener Grant** to improve the **Conowingo Creek Watershed**. Dan Brandt filled us in on the upcoming **Spring Banquet** on March 27th, 2004. Dave Chalfant is preparing for the **Big Brothers-Big Sisters' Fishing Day** on April 30th. Kevin Fausey discussed the **Lancaster County Youth Field Day** and the latest plans for the nursery. We need volunteers for all of these activities. All you need to do is make a phone call. It takes a lot of people to make an organization grow.

Our guest speaker, **George Magaro** resides in Easton, PA. He is a guide on the Delaware River as well as the president of the **Delaware River Shad Fishers Association**. George has been fishing for and learning about Shad behavior for 21 years. He is the first to admit that he is still learning about this exciting game fish. The American Shad has been declining in population since 1993. It was because of this species that the PA Fish Commission was organized in 1866. When dams were built on the Susquehanna, Schuylkill and Lehigh Rivers, the species declined rapidly. Most of these dams were built to supply power for the many mills on the rivers. Today, the dams are still present, but the industries have moved away. To restore these anadromous

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Wednesday
March 17th
7 PM

Quality Inn
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Program
"Casting For
Recovery"
by
Carol Stevenson

Upcoming
Chapter
Activities

25th Annual
Spring
Banquet
& Auction

Saturday
March 27th
2004
4:30 PM

Quality Inn
2363 Oregon Pike
Lancaster

species, the dams are being removed or fish ladders are being constructed.

The American Shad is born in fresh water and then returns to the Atlantic Ocean to feed in the waters around Nova Scotia. They return to their home waters in 4 to 5 years and seek out water temperatures between 51 and 62 degrees F to spawn. While doing this, they may move 8 to 10 miles a day up or down river.

George seeks out these temperatures for his clients and either takes them out in his boat or fishes from shore. George has written articles for the Pennsylvania Angler and a book on fishing for the America Shad. His knowledge is extensive. He discussed various techniques that are successful with both fly and spinning tackle. George showed the rigs that worked as well, such as flies and flutter spoons. He discussed types of currents to fish as well as anchoring techniques that make him a successful guide.

George also discussed the conservation of individual fish. He feels that if a fish is bleeding when caught, it should be taken for the table. It is a waste to release a fish only to have it die in a short time. The 1/0 hook sizes used are better for the fish than tiny hooks that may be swallowed. Careful netting is paramount to protect this great fish which can weigh up to 10 pounds.

By the time George was finished, my brain was at the saturation point. There was so much information to assimilate in a short time, but we all appreciated his presentation. We thank George for his time and the donation of Shad flies for the raffle. See you next month.



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report:

by **Bob Wyble**

I am pleased and proud to inform you that several DTU members have stepped forward and agreed to be maintenance supervisors for sections of Lititz Run. **Jim Bushong** has agreed to supervise maintenance on the Wayne Baum farm. **Tom Care** and **Jim Hovan** will supervise Millport Conservancy and **Bob Good** will supervise the Luke Weidler Farm. Thank you gentlemen for accepting this responsibility. I'm sure the landowners will be very pleased to meet you and work with you to maintain the work DTU has done on their section of Lititz Run.

We can still use one person to supervise the Riparian Park Section. If you would like to work with this area located directly below Clay Road please send me an email at wbyble@ptd.net or call me at 733-4939.

If you have not yet written a **letter** to express your opposition to the proposed changes of the **Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only (DHALO)** regulations I strongly encourage you to do so now. Remember, only 2% of the trout waters in Pennsylvania are Delayed Harvest and now they want to take that away from us. That is just dead wrong. Please use rapfbcregs@state.pa.us to e-mail your comments. Be sure to send your comments as part of your e-mail. Do not send your comments as an attachment.

This is going to be a big year for our chapter. We kick things off with the banquet on March 27th. Please send your registration form to Wayne Boggs ASAP. If you lost your registration letter you may contact Wayne at bluedun@comcast.net.

We have agreed to work with Rettew Associates to apply for a Growing Greener Grant to complete an assessment of the Conowingo Creek Watershed in southern Lancaster County. This is very important because wild trout live in the headwaters of Conowingo Creek and with improvements, wild trout could live in a

larger portion of the creek. The major problems here are phosphorus and sediment. If we are successful in obtaining this grant, Rettew Associates will help us determine what we need to do to reduce these pollutants in Conowingo Creek.

Some dates to mark on your calendar. This year's **Big Brother/Big Sister Fishing Derby** will held be at Spring Trout Fish Farm south of New Holland on Friday evening, **April 30th**. This year's **Lancaster County Youth Field Day** will be at the Northern Lancaster County Sportsman's Association on Saturday, **June 5th**. We need lots of help for both of these projects, so mark these dates on your colander and plan to come help us out. Look for more details in the April Mayflyer.

DTU Member John Pauls Dies at 78 by **Scott Trefny**

John Pauls of 319 N Reservoir Street, Lancaster died at age 78 on Saturday, February 7th, 2004, at the Coatesville Veterans Administration Medical Center after a lengthy illness. John was a member of DTU for many years and helped with many projects. He served as Secretary, Vice President and was a Board Member. John was also a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to DTU. John enjoyed the outdoors with his two sons as well as with members of DTU. He was a member of the Strasburg Sportsmen's Association and the National Rifle Association. John served on the executive committee of the former Boy Scout Troop 25 of the Sixth Ward in Lancaster. John could always be counted on to do the work of DTU and will be missed by all who knew him.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS



Program Committee

Chairman: Ted Downs

The Program for March will feature **Carol Stevenson**, who will speak on **Casting For Recovery (CFR)** which provides fly-fishing retreats specifically tailored for women who have or have had breast cancer. CFR seeks to enhance the lives of breast cancer survivors by providing retreats focused on wellness and incorporating counseling, educational services and the sport of fly-fishing to promote mental and physical healing.

Membership Committee Report

Chairman: Bill Billett

Current membership for the chapter is 497. New members for the month of January are: **Patric Nephin; Daniel Nephin; Roy Rothrock; Chad Beitler; Greg Marco; and Tracy Herr**. In addition to these new members we also had 44 current members renew their membership. So those of you with renewal notices at home take care to get those notices back to TU National **NOW**, before you forget and you're taken off the roles. Also make sure you tell all those wannabees in the fishing fraternity that TU National still has a special for all new members who'd like to join for **only \$17.00**. So get out there, shake the bushes, and find a friend to bring along to the next meeting and take advantage of this great deal.



New Members - Jim Hovan and Tom Care

Fundraising Committee Report

Chairman: Dan Brandt

Not a lot to report on the **Spring Banquet** except **BE THERE!!** Once again, the banquet will be held on **Saturday, March 27th** at the Quality Inn and Suites on Oregon Pike. Come on out and help raise money for the future of our Lancaster County trout streams and have a good time in the process. The doors open at 4:30 PM

with a social "hour" from 4:30-6:30 PM and dinner at 6:45 PM. Thanks for all your help. See you there!

Education Committee Report

Chairman: Dave Chalfant

We are planning to hold the annual **Big Brothers / Big Sisters Fishing Derby on Friday evening, April 30th**. We need Donegal TU volunteers to help with this event. We will hold the fishing derby at Jim Martin's Spring Trout Fish Farm which is about 1 mile south of New Holland. We will have more information in the April Mayflyer. Please mark your calendars for this date. It is a lot of fun for the kids and for the volunteers.

Fundraising Committee Report

Chairman: Greg Wilson

Article written by Dee Lehman

The conservation committee has been very busy! Recently, the committee met with the Lancaster County Conservancy (LCC) to explore mutual interests such as fishery improvements in Tucquan Glen and Fishing Creek. Additionally, we are planning to conduct a tour of Lititz Creek watershed with them in the near future to lay some groundwork on how LCC may be able to help ensure that the improvements made on Lititz Run can be sustained in the future. In addition, Donegal TU will be submitting an application for a Growing Greener Grant to assess and develop a restoration plan for the Conowingo Creek watershed. This 34 square mile watershed in the southern end of the county begins south of Buck, on the eastern side of 272, west of the Octoraro watershed and extends south of the Maryland line. Conowingo Creek discharges to the Susquehanna River south of the Conowingo Dam. We are quite excited about this potential project because portions of the stream are high quality and sustain wild trout populations (one of only three streams in the County to do so!), but some portions of the stream have been determined to be impaired, primarily due to sediment loadings and associated phosphorous levels. Rettew Associates was selected to assist DTU after a competitive bid process was completed. If funded, the project will identify areas in the watershed that DTU can and should target for "best management practices" and stream enhancements to bring the stream out of its "non-attainment" status, thereby improving the fishery in the process. We'll keep you posted on the outcome of our application!

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**A Chinook Salmon heads for its spawning grounds in Rock Creek, Oregon.
Photo: Richard Grost**

The Soul Who Swims

by Dr. Carl Safina

Featured in the Fall 2003 Patagonia catalog

I wonder if a vision of her life is passing before her as she lies here with that one unblinking eye staring up at the enormous trees overhead and the sunlit sky beyond them. I suppose not. I can only suppose that she has no recollection of the urges that have driven her, no recall that as a youngster she left this stream to travel under the ocean's broad roof to the deep heart of the sea and back. And I suppose she cannot now remember fighting her way against the river's torrent and leaping up sunlit falls and choosing a strong mate. Does she even know that she has laid her eggs, fulfilled her part in shaping the future? Can she remotely realize that each day she lived, comrades fell to natural catastrophes and cunning predators and diseases and accidents and nets and hooks and the structured works of humanity? As she lies dying here, can she possibly understand that she has survived?

Everything that could ever go right for a Salmon has gone right for her. But for most Salmon here along North America's Pacific Northwest coast, the reverse applies.

Once, Salmon were merely the world's most complicated fishes, spending part of their life as freshwater fish, part as saltwater fish, and yet another part again as freshwater animals bent single-mindedly upon self-destruction through reproduction - immortality through suicide. These different stages demand extreme physical changes and navigational abilities as advanced as those of any living being and more advanced, by far, than most. Their mystery filled native people with reverence, and their facts - those we have discovered - likewise fill scientists, naturalists and modern anglers with awe.

Ranging as they can from the Continental Divide to the center of the ocean and back within one relatively short, humble, heroic life, Salmon are exceptional by any measure. That life and story have become increasingly complex. Nowadays, one cannot see the Salmon's world without adding to the tale the plot

(Continued on page ii)

The Soul Who Swims

(Continued from page i)

complications of logging, agriculture, hydropower, dams, politics, pesticides, foreign markets, private property rights, public property fights, recreational, commercial and subsistence fishing, and artificial reproduction. And one cannot see those interlocking sets of debilitating dilemmas without confronting the heights and depths of the human spirit, as a Salmon cannot confront life without ranging between the purest of spring water and the bottomless depths of the deepest sea.

Shuttling as they do like silver threads between upland and ocean, abyss and summit, Salmon tightly stitch the interlock between continent, torrent and tide, binding together everything humans do to land or water. And we do much.

The Great Northwest of the United States and Pacific Canada have become the world's extinction epicenter for ocean fishes. Nowhere else in the world are ancient lines of marine fish vanishing with such haste. Pacific Salmon have disappeared from about 40 percent of their breeding range in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California. In this region, Salmon are extinct, endangered or threatened in two-thirds of the area they occupied 10 decades ago.

I fear this is not an aberration but a harbinger. Headlines from New England, news from the North Sea, reports from international conferences, and rumors from tropical shorelines all inform us similarly: We are not just using the seas; we are using them up. And as humans expand to fill the world, we rob other species of the grace of their existence. And so we rob ourselves. Extinction is an unusual form of death, because while most death adds a spoke to the wheel of life, extinction carries a peculiar finality, an end of lineages, a preclusion of futures. As the poet Gary Snyder put it, "Death is one thing, an end to birth is something else."

The Pacific Northwest, then, offers much we could study as through a window on the world. Among other things, we can study an array of human objectives, from those who tried to exterminate Salmon with poison to those who worship the fish: an extreme range of views and policies, and thus human nature itself. Meanwhile, hope paces impatiently. Lessons learned in the Northwest - if we learn them - could be applied in the wider world; there is still time.

Only a few wild animals symbolize the heart and soul of a region. Tigers in India, lions and elephants in Africa, kangaroos in Australia. In North America, the buffalo of the Great Plains and the Salmon of the Pacific Northwest supported economies, cultures and human self-identities. And though white settlers destroyed the buffalo in greed and in genocide against the natives, they embraced the Salmon. Immigrants, like native peoples, saw in Salmon something deep, powerful, moving and valuable - even if they approached the fish with less awe, less reverence and, consequently, less success than the natives had for millennia.

Think of the Northwest, and Salmon soon come to mind. Whether they represent your demons or salvation, Salmon loom large here. Certain other animals still symbolize their regions. But Salmon are unique because their symbolic power and their ability to bestow significant economic and nutritional benefits on human culture have survived together to the 21st century. And this comprises the best hope in the struggle for Salmon and the people who need and desire them.



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Originated by Ted Fauceglia



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THREAD: Olive 8/0.

TAIL: Bronze blue dun hackle fibers.

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THORAX: Same as abdomen.

WINGCASE: Dark brown poly yarn.

LEGS: Medium olive henback fibers.

HEAD: Olive 8/0 thread.



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WHAT'S NEW AT:

PA Trout:

A Letter to the PA Fish and Boat Commission

The PA State Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU) would like to voice its opposition to the proposed regulation changes to allow bait fishing after June 15th on waters managed under the Delayed Harvest, Artificial Lures Only (DHALO) program. We base our opposition on the following points:

First and foremost, we view the current DHALO management program as being a very innovative and successful program, based upon its popularity among anglers and efficient use of expensive hatchery Trout resources. We note that anglers recreating on DHALO streams, especially between April 15th & June 15th, place a premium on the recreational Trout angling offered by these stocked Trout in DHALO streams, above the creeling of Trout, since during these times, these same anglers could choose to visit a stocked stream under regular management that permits the creeling of 5 Trout. Currently, DHALO stream sections log some of the highest angler use hours and we question whether the encouragement of increased harvest through bait fishing is a smart way to manage an already popular and successful fishery program.

PATU questions the premise that all DHALO waters are "marginal waters" where stocked Trout routinely die due to high summer stream temperatures. Although this is the case for some DHALO streams, we know that survival of Trout occurs through the summer on many of these waters (e.g. Tulpehocken Creek, Berks County) and some DHALO streams also support good wild Trout populations (e.g. White Deer Creek, Union County). Given these realities, PATU questions whether encouragement of increased harvest by bait angling is effective management. These examples suggest that DHALO stream sections across the state should be resurveyed before changing any regulations and that some of these more productive waters with cold summer temperatures, or those having wild Trout populations, currently regulated under the DHALO regulation umbrella, should be placed under alternative, more protective regulations to enhance the fishery resource already there.

Another major concern of PATU is the reaction to regulation changes by private landowners who control the access to some of DHALO stream sections. We understand that some DHALO areas are on private land (e.g. Bermudian Creek, Adams County) and that PF&BC entered into written agreements with some landowners regarding the regulations and management of the DHALO areas on their property. We would not like to see a change in DHALO regulations result in either a perception of breach of contract by these landowners, or a negative landowner reaction resulting in private property posting and reduction or elimination of angler access to popular DHALO stream sections.

PATU does not view Trout harvest as the primary goal of DHALO waters, even after June 15th. Indeed, if that were the primary management goal, one would expect to see a creel limit of 5 fish per day rather than 3; and a minimum size of 7" rather than 9", matching the regular state limits on stocked Trout streams. In that light, we view the opening of these waters to bait fishing, after June 15th as being contrary to the goals of the DHALO program as it was originally conceived. We also have

concerns that anglers who have carefully caught and released Trout in these waters for two months are potentially being placed in conflict with bait anglers who would suddenly have access to these waters after June 15th, presumably for the expressed intent of creeling Trout. These bait anglers would not have prior, shared experience on these streams and might be viewed in an extremely negative light by the anglers that have prior experience conserving these Trout for the next recreational angler who arrives to enjoy these stream areas. Some sportsman's groups and tackle businesses augment Commission plantings of stocked Trout with additional, larger, hatchery Trout in order to build a better Trout fishery with more public interest and economic draw (e.g. Neshannock Creek, Lawrence County). Introduction of bait fishing in these areas will undoubtedly lead to conflict between angler groups, landowners, and the people who raised, stocked, and cared for these valuable Trout.

While we understand that some angler groups view the current regulations prohibiting the use of bait on these waters as exclusionary, anglers are not limited in terms of the kind of primary fishing equipment they can use on these sections. Spinning rods, casting rods, and fly rods are all legal tackle in these areas; the only restriction is one of terminal tackle (bait) and there is a wealth of artificial tackle available for use on these stream sections that is compatible with all forms of primary fishing equipment.

PATU believes that the current DHALO program is a successful program from an angler perspective and an innovative program that has budget merits from a commission viewpoint in terms of recycling expensive stocked Trout in a way that maximizes angler recreation and enjoyment. The fact that additional anglers desire access to these high-use DHALO waters suggests that the current DHALO program should potentially be expanded in terms of adding additional miles of appropriate stocked stream areas under this regulation, a move that had strong support at the recent Trout Summit. But it appears that this proposal has not been very carefully thought out before bringing it to the Commissioners for approval. A number of important issues regarding DHALO streams need to be addressed such as prior landowner agreements, the application of this program to streams that do not experience lethal summer temperatures and streams that support good wild Trout populations. Consequently, we recommend that this proposal be withdrawn and resubmitted after the above-mentioned objections are addressed.

We applaud the Commission for the successful implementation of the current DHALO program and would encourage the Commission to hold fast to their original management objectives for DHALO areas. We believe that changing the current DHALO regulations to appease bait fishing interests would potentially alienate the original landowner and angler base that supports this valuable recreational resource, degrade the hold-over and wild Trout populations that exist in many of these streams, and unnecessarily create further divisiveness among angler groups.

Sincerely
George Mellinger,
President PATU

3 Month Chapter Planner

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Subject</u>
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"
	Big Brothers Big Sisters Fishing Derby	Fri. 4/30-6:00 PM	Spring Trout Fish Farm New Holland	Help to Teach Kids to Fish for Trout
May	Board Meeting	Wed. 5/12 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	Chapter Meeting	Wed. 5/19-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Paul Ptalis "Tying Salmon Flies"

Gimme That Fish!

(Continued from page 8)

fast-talking, won the fellows that treasured spot.

So back to the screaming reel. Upon seeing the ruckus, two of the host guard came running down to Dave - "Gimme that fish! Gimme that fish!" (It's illegal to keep any Rainbows on the Bighorn.). Dave is still fighting what might be the fish of his life. "We like to release them" he says, and points out that besides it's not allowed anyway (Lord knows we don't want to break any of the rules).

So this fellow tells a sob story of how he's been fighting fires up in Missoula, and is out of work. Now we're feeling pretty bad. No reason this guy can't have the fish. It will probably feed his whole family for a night. Honest.

So just as Dave nods his approval, the poor fellow reaches for the fish now at their feet. The Trout thrashes and the fly imbeds itself in the guy's thumb. Dave still has his rod high, arced more than before, throbbing more than before, now attached to the guy's thumb, when the guy reaches for the fish with his other hand. What a sight! Dave finally realizes he's not hooked to the Trout anymore and finally gives slack. Next the fish recipient yanks out a knife that would have scared Jim Bowie and raises it to his own thumb. Dave is screaming at this point. Without thought, or fear of consequence he grabs the knife wielding hand and calms the guy. The fly was, of course, barbless and slid out of the skin easily.

Two good deeds.



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Mayflyer

Gimme That Fish!

by DTU Member Steve Nickliss

I'm not going to debate any issues here. Besides, my way of dealing with things is not to deal with them. Anybody who has fished or even heard of the Bighorn River in Montana knows of its reputation. Thousands of Trout per mile with Browns averaging 16 to 18 inches and Rainbows even bigger. Hundreds of drift boats go by in a day. No solitude here. But the truth is that if you find a spot when the PMDs come off and noses de la truite poke out of the water everywhere, that's all you see.

Maybe you need to have been there to know that the only way to effectively fish this tailwater is to drift. I prefer the one man crafts. I take my U-boat, wear my boots instead of flippers, and maneuver with a double-ended kayak paddle. (Since this writing I have graduated to a Southfork Pontoon boat christened "The Butte Mutant") The norm is by drift boat but my preference is spawned by my cheapness and the selfish desire to go where I want to and not have to compromise with anybody.

Also, if you've been there you'd know that there are only a few access points 3 miles; 10 miles; and more apart. The land surrounding the river is controlled by the Crow Indian Nation. The law is that you gain legal access to the river and you must

then stay within the "high water" marks. (This can be liberal, except where the high water mark is up a cliff. Some members of the Crow Nation like to position themselves near the Red Cliffs, which is a very popular area, to police their rights. Any infractors are taken right to the Native law offices and fined. You can try greasing a few palms, but obedience seems to be the better part of valor.

So, one day, the DTU boys I made the trip with set out for these cliffs in two drift boats. They left in plenty of time to position themselves in a line so as to monopolize the entire pool and revel in each other's piscatorial successes and jive at each other's failures. Dave Chalfant, then President of our chapter, spotted a head the size of New Jersey poking out of a foam line. In short order a *huge* Rainbow sucked in his pale yellow dry. Of course Dave whooped like an..... (I'd better not say). Anyway, he didn't need to, as the fish tore up the entire hole.

Now I must digress. Just as they beached their boats, legally, some of the local contingency gave them crap for doing so. Boldness in numbers, one of our fellows being quite large, and the anticipation of the drug soon to follow along with some

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