

# Mayflyer

May 2004

V33-I5

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The Monthly Publication of



Next  
Monthly  
Meeting

## BACKCASTS

### Chapter Meeting Recap 4/21/04: by Scott Trefny

The monthly meeting was held at the Quality Inn and Suites in Lancaster with 31 members and guests present. The meeting began with President Bob Wyble and the committee chairman reporting on the many upcoming activities. Read the next newsletter and check the DTU web site for things that you can do. We need volunteers for the Youth Field Day in June and the Special Olympics fishing day at Speedwell Forge Lake on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Marc Billett, brother of Bill Billett who is on the DTU Board of Directors. Marc and Bill competed as a team in the Eastern Fly-Fishing Masters Competition featured on the OLN Network. Marc is an accomplished flytier and expert caster. I have fished with both brothers for many years and have always admired their ability to catch trout.

Marc's slide show was entitled "Bighorn River Fishing". This great river in Montana is familiar to many DTU'ers because of Camp 6x and three of our members, Bob Kutz, Greg Wilson and Don Reitscha, who are members there and who have graciously invited many of us to participate in the great fishing the river has to offer. Marc's presentation brought back many great memories.

Forty years ago there were no Trout in the Bighorn. When the Yellowtail Dam was constructed to supply power and irrigation to the area, a tail water fishery was created. The limestone strata and the cold water discharge made an insect factory. And when Montana Fish and Game put Rainbow Trout in the river, a monster was created. The river now boasts thousands of Trout per mile. Along with the Trout came the Trout fishermen, three fly shops and guides with boats. The little town of Fort Smith became a Trout Mecca.

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protecting and restoring  
the trout streams and  
watersheds of  
Lancaster County

Fort Smith is however on the Crow Indian Reservation. Therefore the river has limited access. This means that boaters have only four ramps to enter or leave the Bighorn in a 30-mile stretch of water from Fort Smith to Two Leggins. And walk-in fishing is limited to the high water mark. Luckily the river is easily floated with rented drift boats available from the fly shops or the Cottonwood Campground located at the 3 mile Access.

Fishing the Bighorn is fairly simple if you know how to fish tandem nymphs and a strike indicator. 9-foot rods with 5-6 weight floating lines are the ticket. If you see fish rising, then 9 foot 4-5 weight outfits work well. In the Spring midges and small olives are hatching. Then later in the summer, fishermen wait for the PMD's and the black caddis. In the fall, streamers are popular. Nymphs, San Juan Worms and scud patterns work year round and are the mainstay patterns for the guides. All of the popular patterns can be found in the excellent fly shops in town. The owners are happy to fill your fly boxes! Don't forget to bring your plastic!

When you go to the Bighorn make sure your reels have plenty of backing. The trout are big and will run into the middle of the river. Practice your casting and learn how to mend your line. The best advice Marc could give to a newcomer to the Bighorn is to get a guide for one or two days. A good guide will teach you more in a day than you could learn in a week by yourself.

We all enjoyed the great slides and the kidding between Ted Downs and Marc. We all know that Ted is the better fisherman, don't we Ted! Thank you Marc for a great presentation. See you on the water.

**Wednesday**  
**May 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**7 PM**

**Quality Inn**  
2363 Oregon Pike  
Lancaster

**Program**  
**"Tying Salmon**  
**Flies"**  
by  
**Paul Ptalis**

Upcoming  
Chapter  
Activities

**Lancaster**  
**County**  
**Youth Field**  
**Day**

**Saturday**  
**June 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 AM**

**Northern**  
**Lancaster**  
**County**  
**Sportsmen's**  
**Association**



# WHAT'S EMERGING!

## President's Report:

by **Bob Wyble**

We have completed another successful TU banquet. On behalf of all the members I would like to thank **Dan Brandt** for taking the leadership role in organizing the banquet and following through with all the details that are necessary for a successful banquet. I would also like to thank everyone for your generous support in this year's banquet. We took in a gross of \$31,238 with a net profit of \$18,900.

While we have had another successful banquet we can always do things to improve. I am asking you as members to give the board of directors some feedback. What did you like about the banquet? Did you like the bucket raffle, silent auction, and verbal auction? Did you like the games of chance? If you were in charge what would you add or change? We have 500 members in our chapter. What could we do to encourage more members to attend the banquet? Take a few minutes over a cup of coffee to think about the banquet and write down a few ideas. I would ask you to please send your ideas to me at [wyble@ptd.net](mailto:wyble@ptd.net) or give me a call at 733-4939.

The grant for \$50,000 to design a fish passageway at the Iron Stone Mill Dam on the Conestoga River has been approved. We have a contract with Rettew Associates to design the passageway. The Pennsylvania Fish commission will coordinate the project.

We have installed 4 HOB0 temperature probes in Lititz Run from Millport Conservancy down to the Ed Hess farm. The Lititz Run Watershed Alliance has also installed 4 HOB0 probes in the upper section of Lititz Run, South of Route 501 to Riparian Park. The probes have been programmed to record water temperature every 4 hours around the clock. Data from the probes will be downloaded to a computer on the first of every month until

November 1.

The Big Brother/Big Sister fishing derby will be over by the time you receive this newsletter. I would like to thank **Dave Chalfant** for organizing this event.

The **Lancaster County Youth Field Day** will be held at the Northern Lancaster County Sportsman's Association on Saturday, **June 5**. **Kevin Fausey** is organizing Youth Field Day and is looking for volunteer help. Look for more information in this newsletter.

Our good friend and past Chapter President **Henry Bazella** is moving to Georgia at the request of his company. This means we will need a new webmaster to keep our website updated. I am pleased to announce that **Dee Lehman** has agreed to step up and take the challenge of keeping our website up to date. Dee will post the Mayflyer on the web site each month. **Henry** we wish you well and you are always welcome to come join us when you return to Pennsylvania.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the picnic with the **Doc Fritchie Chapter** on **June 22**. The picnic will be held at the Indiantown Gap Memorial Lake. A pig roast is planned to begin at 4:00 PM.

## Lancaster County Youth Field Day by **Gary Roulston**

Mark your calendars for **Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at **8 AM** at the **Northern Lancaster County Sportsmen's Association**. This is a great opportunity to teach the next generation of outdoor sportsmen and sportswomen about fly fishing. If you can't spend the whole day there, sign up for a half day. Volunteers are needed for both the morning and the afternoon. Contact **Kevin Fausey** at **626-4003** if you'd like to help. It's a great day and you'll feel great for having done it.

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS



## Program Committee

**Chairman:** Ted Downs

The program for May will be “**Tying Salmon Flies**” presented by **Paul Ptalis**. Paul is an internationally recognized master salmon fly tier. Century End is Paul’s first book and was originally self-published in 1999 as a limited edition. His flies have been published in several other books since 1994 and have been available to collectors since 1992. Salmon fly “art” is the only way to describe his exquisite creations. While Paul has taught many to tie trout, salt-water, steelhead and Atlantic salmon fishing flies, exhibition full-dress Atlantic salmon flies are his obsession. Besides creating original full-dress salmon flies, he ties many traditional patterns from the 1700’s and 1800’s. Paul lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He can often be found on his home waters fishing for trout, landlocked salmon, and all the northeast saltwater game fish, and he fits in an occasional trip to Ontario, Quebec, and new Brunswick for Atlantics. He holds a master’s degree in health care administration from Long Island University.

## Education Committee Report

**Chairman:** Dave Chalfant

Coming up on June 5, is the **Lancaster County Sportsmen’s Youth Field Day**. This year it is being hosted by the Northern Lancaster County Sportsmen’s Association. We need volunteers to help that day!! Please contact Kevin Fausey for directions and times if you can help. We are also planning to participate in a fishing derby for the athletes in the Special Olympics of Lancaster County. We are planning on a Saturday morning in early August. We will have more specifics in a later newsletter.

## Membership Committee Report

**Chairman:** Bill Billett

We have three new members to the chapter. They are **Ron Brass** from Smoketown; **Anthony Harnish** from Conestoga; and **Myron Vaughn** from Lancaster. We had 38 renewed members for the month and 18 with suspended memberships to go along with the new members. That brings our total for the month of March to 500 members. Now that fishing season has started and you find yourself out and about on the stream take this opportunity to promote DTU to your fishing buddies. When you get around to taking that rare break and

striking up a conversation with other anglers make sure to bring up TU and membership to the organization. Right now the special deal is for any new member signing up for the first time, the \$17.50 they charge goes directly back to the local chapter to be used for local chapter work. So ask them to join and help to preserve the cold water fisheries and quality trout water we all work for. In fact pick up some of the new fliers the chapter has and carry them with you on the stream and help us grow to not only one of the best but maybe the biggest and “bestest” (new word for the month). Our goal is to try and reach 600 members by Christmas.



**New Members:** Rick Hill; Dick Bergey; and Justin Leventry

## **More Stories From The Madison**

*(Continued from page 7)*

position. With a few well-chosen words of logic, John was persuaded to transverse what was left of the mountain in second. By the time we reached the bottom, my palms were wet with sweat and my heart had run a marathon. My stomach was still unsettled when we reached Red Lodge and stopped for lunch. I vowed never to leave the park by the northeast passage again. The remainder of the drive was uneventful and even restful. We made Billings in time for dinner and were in bed and snoring by 10 O'clock, in preparation for an early flight out the next morning.

Montana is what all of the world is supposed to be. It’s big sky, big land, big water and big fish. It’s nature as God intended it to be. It’s beauty, solitude and mystery. It just makes life better, especially when you’re fishing with friends, telling stories and sipping a good malt beverage. It’s what everything is about.





## Sweet Dreams

Submitted by Robert Schreiner, Southampton, PA

### Description

This is an innovative mayfly imitation that floats with the parachute on the bottom. The hackle sits on the water much like a mayfly's legs would. Selected as an editor's choice in the Best Flies 04 article in the March 2004 issue.

### Recipe

**HOOK:** #12 Mustad 94842; **THREAD:** Black 8/0

**TAIL:** Three pheasant-tail fibers

**ABDOMEN:** Stripped peacock herl;

**WING:** Partridge Feather

**PARACHUTE POST:** 1mm thick black closed-cell foam

**THORAX:** Black dubbing; **HACKLE:** Barred ginger

**NOTE:** Bend the hook shank in the thorax area. After wrapping the hackle, cut the foam post where the hackle stops. Put a drop of head cement on the end of the post to hold the shape.

# RFH

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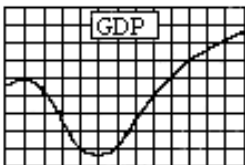
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# WHAT'S NEW AT:

## **Donegal Trout Unlimited:** **by DTU Member Glen Nefin**

The date for our **2005 Spring Banquet and Auction** has been set.. It's Saturday April 2, 2005. While that seems like a long time from now it really isn't. There's much to be done between now and then. Here's an overview describing who we are, how we're organized, and why the Spring Banquet is so important to the success of our organization.

Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit, conservation organization whose primary goal is the preservation and enhancement of our coldwater streams and rivers. Our primary activities are stream improvements projects and educational programs and projects with schools, local business, youth groups, and other concerned clubs and organizations.

The Trout Unlimited organization has three basic levels. At the national level with over 100,000 members is National Trout Unlimited, headquartered in Arlington, VA. Each state has its own state council, ours being Pennsylvania Trout. Our state council includes 56 chapters. Here in Lancaster County, the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited is the local chapter.

Donegal Trout Unlimited is actively involved in stream improvement projects, three of which are; Lititz Run, Donegal Spring Creek, and Segloch Run. Improvements on these streams include bank stabilization, installation of in-stream structures and fish cover, tree and shrub planting and fence installation to keep farm animals away from the banks and out of the streams.

Funding for these improvements and activities is primarily through charitable donations and fund raising activities such as our **Annual Spring Banquet and Auction**. Items for the auctions and raffles at our Spring Banquet are donated by individuals and businesses, both locally and nationally.

Since all of the money we raise is spent to improve our local streams and environment, your contributions and donations will benefit out local people and communities. Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit organization, so the tax laws for donations to charitable organizations apply to any donation made to Trout Unlimited.

So please mark your calendars now for next year's Spring Banquet and Auction and plan to attend. Thank you for your concern and your generous support.

## **National TU**

### **Acid Rain Campaign**

TU has long been engaged in protecting mountain streams and lakes in the Appalachian Mountains from acid rain. At risk are some the Eastern seaboard's best native brook trout watersheds.

Acid rain first became a concern to anglers in the 1970s, when lakes in the Adirondacks began to lose many of their native aquatic organisms. Due to the public outrage over the effects of acid rain, Congress passed amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990 (known as the "1990 Amendments") that attempted to deal with the problem by capping the emissions of sulfur dioxide from coal burning power plants. The 1990 Amendments also provided for slight cuts in nitrogen oxides, the other pollutant that contributes to acid rain.

Although public concern about acid rain has waned, the effects of acid rain continue. A growing body of science has concluded that the pollution cuts provided by the 1990 Amendments will not be enough to protect sensitive aquatic ecosystems in the East, including mountain streams in Virginia and lakes in the Adirondacks. TU's acid rain campaign is centered on:

#### **1. Improving knowledge about the effects of acid rain.**

In 1998, TU's Coldwater Conservation Fund funded a landmark study by the University of Virginia on the effects of acid rain on Virginia's brook trout streams. The CCF has also funded several years of water quality sampling in North Carolina's mountains.

In April 2000, TU's Virginia Council provided over 150 volunteers to support an effort to collect water quality samples from all of Virginia's brook trout streams. In the coming years, TU will be working with its volunteers in the southern Appalachians to further improve efforts to sample water quality and understand the ongoing effects of acid rain.

#### **2. Improving the Clean Air Act to fully protect Eastern mountain streams.**

#### **3. Seeking passage of legislation that imposes the level of pollution cuts supported by the best science.**

Several bills have been introduced in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress that would require further cuts in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. TU is following these bills and will use its extensive network of interested volunteers to help pass legislation that delivers the needed protection to our Eastern trout waters.

# 3 Month Chapter Planner

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date &amp; Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Subject</u>
<b>May</b>	Board Meeting	Wed. 5/12 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	<b>Chapter Meeting</b>	Wed. 5/19-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites Oregon Pike	Paul Ptalis "Tying Salmon Flies"
<b>June</b>	Lancaster County Youth Field Day	Sat. 6/5 -8:00 AM	Northern Lancaster County Sportsmen	Educate Lancaster County Youth On Fly Fishing
	Board Meeting	Wed. 6/9 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	<b>Chapter Meeting</b>	<b><u>Tues. 6/22-4:00 PM</u></b>	<b>Indiantown Gap Memorial Lake</b>	<b>Joint Chapter Meeting Picnic with the Doc Fritchey Chapter</b>
<b>July</b>	Board Meeting	Wed. 7/14 -7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	<b>Chapter Meeting</b>	Wed. 7/21-6:00 PM	Bob Bachman Residence	<b>Picnic Chapter Meeting</b>

## More Stories From The Madison

*(Continued from page 8)*

"Mommy!" We didn't see any bears, but we also didn't catch any fish. Turns out we were too early for the fall run of bears and fish. The scenery was spectacular. The trail skirts the edge of Shoshone Lake and winds its way through a stand of what looks like virgin timber. Mountains, standing guard in the distance, were splashed with white from an early snow. At the trail head, I'd made the brilliant decision to wear a pair of light running shoes on the hike, without socks. By the time the eight miles were up, so were the big blisters on my heels.

I limped my way through the rest of Yellowstone Park. The park is a step back in time, with flora and fauna the way it must have been before man befouled the earth. Mule deer, elk, buffalo, moose, black bear, coyotes and, believe it or not, a mountain lion wandered across our path as if they owned the place. They do!

As we made our way out of the park, we made periodic stops to sample small streams along the way. Ed, John and Dale hiked back into another lake, while I dangled my feet in a stream and nursed my blisters. It seemed like every little bit of water gave up a few fish; some that we would have bragged about back East, but they were rather common by Western standards. By late afternoon, we exited the park through its northeast entrance and took route 212 into the Beartooth Mountains.

We spent that night in Cooke City, a beautiful mountain town carved out of the Beartooths. The next morning, we continued on 212 toward Red Lodge. It's a beautiful drive, a virtual panorama of breathtaking scenery - snow-washed peaks, highland meadows, aglow with wildflowers, small emerald ponds and the purple mysticism of distant forests viewed through a curtain of wisp-like clouds. Beautiful it is, but Route 212 is not for the faint of heart. The road, in fact, is closed during the snow season. As you corkscrew your way down the mountain, there are many places where a glance over the shoulder has you looking yourself in the face. To the left, there's a wall of rock and on the right nothing; a sheer drop into a bottomless abyss. Well, not really bottomless, you'd come to an abrupt stop at the end of an 8,000-foot free fall. John, our driver, was making very, very, very good time, when he wasn't jamming on the brakes. I inquired politely, "What Goddamned gear are in John?" He said: "Fifth." I pointed out that the signs said to shift down, so he dropped to fourth. It was all I could do to stop from throwing myself on the floor in the back seat and curling up in a fetal

*(Continued on page 3)*





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1500 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 310, Arlington, Virginia 22209-2310 (703-522-0200)

Mayflyer

## More Stories From The Madison

by DTU Member Don Shaw

The next morning we waved goodbye to the Madison and headed out through Yellowstone Park on our way to the Lewis River. It runs between Lewis and Shoshone Lakes. Ed had heard about big trout being in the river during the fall migration runs between the two lakes.

Getting back to the river involved a four-mile hike. At the trail head, there was a sign-in and sign-out sheet to make sure that those who went in came out. A notice posted on a bulletin board next to the trail read: **“WARNING THIS IS GRIZZLY COUNTRY!”** It went on to warn readers not to take the trail with less than three members in the party, and it instructed hikers to make plenty of noise to help warn bears that humans were in the area. The notice went on to say: If you come upon a “kill” get out of the area as quickly as possible. If you're confronted by a bear, back away very slowly. If the bear begins to charge, stand completely still. **NEVER, NEVER RUN.** Most charges are bluffs. If the bear carries out the charge, fall face down on the ground; pull your legs up into the fetal position; and clasp your hands behind your head (I wondered whether it was permissible to wipe before you put your hands behind your head). This all gave me a nervous, uneasy feeling. In fact, it made me feel

downright wimpy. I never thought of myself as a wimp before, but the thought of angry grizzlies does give one a wimpy feeling. Remembering some advice I'd been given in a cowboy bar the night before didn't help the unease. We'd been talking about the chances of meeting up with a grizzly during one of our fishing forays, when one of the locals offered up a few words of encouragement. “Make plenty of noise goin' in, so's the bears'll hear you coming. Buy one a them bear-bell outfits. They're on a stretchy thing that goes 'round yer ankles, and they jingle when you walk. Then, be on the look out for bear skat, and if you see the bad kind, get outa there damn fast.” Being naive and relatively unschooled in bear skat, I asked him how to identify the bad kind? “It's the kind with bells in it,” he snickered. Nice! Four miles in and four miles out, I talked and sang endlessly to keep the bears away. Some of my friends would say it was mindlessly. Most of my lyrics referred unkindly to my fellow hikers who weren't singing or making any noise at all. Turns out I didn't really have to worry. We didn't run into any bears, but I did get a slight rush when a BIG blackish brown moose suddenly materialized about 20 yards away from me. Before I realized it was a moose, I think I said something courageous like

*(Continued on page 7)*