

# Mayflyer

September 2004

V33-19

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The Monthly Publication of



Next  
Monthly  
Meeting

## BACKCASTS

### Chapter Meeting Recap 8/18/04:

by **Scott Trefny**

The August Chapter Picnic was held at the Millport Conservancy with over forty people present. I was unable to get an exact count as I was busy grilling cheeseburgers and hot dogs with **Bob Geibe** and **Kevin Fausey**, but the meeting was very well attended as you can see from the picture.



August Chapter Picnic Meeting-Millport Conservancy

Thank you to **Ted Downs** for getting the food for the feast. Everyone there seemed to enjoy the food and the company. Many special guests were present at the picnic because of the tree dedication in memory of **Todd Smythe**. After dinner, **Bob Wyble** had a short business meeting. A number of announcements were made about upcoming events (see page 2 for opportunities to volunteer). **Fae Haering** also gave a report on her experiences as a casting instructor at a **Casting For Recovery** event in Maryland.

After the meeting, a number of people went to Riparian Park for the Todd Smythe dedication ceremonies. **Bob Wyble** did a great job, introducing a number of Todd's co-workers, family and friends. Todd's father, **Jim**, spoke at length about Todd and some of Todd's baseball team members presented Todd's mother, **Peggy**, with a baseball jacket signed by his teammates. **Matt Kofroth** then dedicated the tree (a swamp

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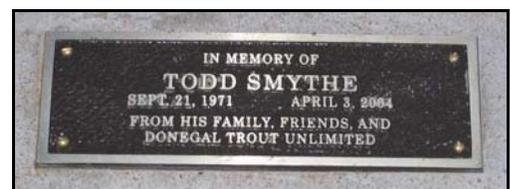
white oak) and the plaque and discussed how the money donated in Todd's memory will be used. Thank you for coming. We'll see you again at the **September Chapter meeting** and at the **Fly Fishing Expo on September 11<sup>th</sup>**.



Todd Smythe's Friends and Family at Riparian Park



Jim and Peggy Smythe with Todd's Memorial Tree



Todd's Memorial Plaque at the base of his Tree

Wednesday  
September 15<sup>th</sup>  
7 PM

Quality Inn

Program  
"Restoring  
Shad to the  
Susquehanna  
River Basin"  
by  
Gil Hirschel

Upcoming  
Chapter  
Activities

October Fest

Wednesday  
October 20<sup>th</sup>  
6 PM

Four Seasons  
Golf Course  
Clubhouse

"The East Coast  
Big Four"  
by  
Ed Jaworowski



# WHAT'S EMERGING!

## President's Report:

by **Bob Wyble**

Burgers on the grill are a standard part of summer, but the August picnic at Millport Conservancy will always be remembered as a special event. Following the gastronomic delights of the picnic, DTU members and family and friends of **Todd Smythe** drove to Riparian Park along Lititz Run to dedicate an oak tree and a bronze plaque in memory of Todd, who tragically passed away on April 3, 2004 at the young age of 32. Todd was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. Because of his passion for trout fishing, his family suggested that friends and co-workers could send contributions to Donegal TU (Todd's father is a fellow DTU member). As a result DTU received 15 checks totaling \$1600. Todd's father **Jim**, his mother **Peggy**, his brother **Tim** and approximately 20 friends and co-workers attended the dedication ceremony. The money still remaining from the Todd Smythe memorial contributions will be used to purchase and plant 8-10 additional large trees for bank stabilization on the shore opposite from Riparian Park.

We all agree that our award-winning newsletter is the glue that keeps us together as a chapter. The *Mayflyer* is our means of communication to keep chapter members informed of events, projects and activities. **Gary Roulston** has done a phenomenal job of keeping the *Mayflyer* going since 1997. His fresh ideas and editorial skills have raised the *Mayflyer* to a level of professionalism we all enjoy as readers. While Gary has done a great job over these years, he has other skills he would like to be able to use in our chapter. So it's time to give Gary a break so he can use his time and energy for other projects in DTU.

I have to believe that with 500 plus chapter members there is someone, out there who would be willing to step up and accept the responsibility to publish the *Mayflyer*. The

DTU board is currently discussing the possibility of changing the *Mayflyer* publishing schedule to every two months. This would save our chapter about \$4,000 per year and would significantly reduce the number of hours involved in publishing the newsletter. We would need to plan more carefully to get information on upcoming events to members, but that should be manageable. With more time between issues we may also be able to write more articles on issues and events relating to coldwater conservation.

We cannot continue as is. Is there someone out there who would be willing to edit and publish the *Mayflyer*??? DTU would provide the training and software necessary to publish the *Mayflyer*. Think about it. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of taking over the newsletter please contact **Bob Wyble** at [wyble@ptd.net](mailto:wyble@ptd.net) or call **733-4939**.

After months of waiting we are finally ready to move on the stream relocation project in the Wetlands Farm property on Lititz Run. Flyway Excavating Co. will begin work after Labor Day. A new stream channel (approximately 2000 ft. long) will be dug to move Lititz Run away from a steep embankment out onto the flood plain. This will allow water to move out of the stream channel on both sides of the creek during flood events to release energy and reduce streambank erosion.

Water will continue to flow in the old channel until the new channel is created. On the day that water is permitted to enter the new channel we will need volunteers to relocate any stranded fish. This will occur on short notice because it is dependent on weather conditions. We will also need help to sow grass seed and place straw on the excavated area. If you are available to help with these activities please call **Joe Besecker** at **392-8725**.

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS



## September Program

### **Chairman: Ted Downs**

September's program will be "**Restoring Shad to the Susquehanna River Basin**", by Gil Hirschel. Gil is the Environmental Outreach Coordinator for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission; a regulatory, federal/interstate compact commission vested with the responsibility for management and control of the water resources of the 27,500 square mile Susquehanna River basin, draining portions of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

## October Program

### **Chairman: Ted Downs**

The **October Fest** will be held on **Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Four Seasons Golf Course Clubhouse on Church St. in Landisville. The evening begins with a **social hour at 6 PM** with a **dinner buffet at 6:45 PM**.

**Ed Jaworowski**, well known for his fly casting/fishing expertise will present a program on "**The East Coast Four**" (albacore, striped bass, blues and bonito). Ed is also known for his fly-fishing books and his fly-casting ability. The cost for the dinner buffet is \$20.00. Reservations must be made by calling Ted Downs at 393-6645 no later than October 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Volunteer Coordination Committee

### **Chairman: Joe Besecker**

During the next month DTU will be looking for your help. As many of you know, DTU has been working to improve the water quality and stream habitat of Lititz Run. This year is no exception. With the help of the Lititz Run Watershed Alliance, LandStudies Inc., and DTU, the Wetlands Farm (aka Banta) project will finally be starting along the banks of Lititz Run this fall. The project will involve extensive and detailed stream restoration work with large equipment. DTU volunteers can help the project "GET GREEN." We are near the end of the growing season and will need to seed the area around the stream project after the large equipment vacates the site. We will need many volunteers to help seed these areas with native grasses. This job is as easy as throwing some seed on bare dirt; we can all do that! We would really like to see many DTU volunteers out helping with this project. To assist in any way on this project contact either **Dr. Joe Besecker** (392-8725), Volunteer Committee Chair, or **Greg Wilson** (627-0419), Conservation Committee Chair. Thanks in advance for your help on this very worthwhile project.

## Casting For Recovery Retreat

### **by: DTU Member Faye Haering**

The Casting for Recovery Retreat was held on 6/11/04 at the Rising Phoenix Retreat Center, Flintstone, MD. It was organized by Carol Stevenson, Retreat Coordinator. This was my first retreat as a trainee for Fly Fishing Instructor and River Guide. Fourteen Participants (breast cancer survivors in various stages of their recovery), and eight Staff Members, some of whom are also breast cancer survivors, attended this retreat. The Staff included: fly fishing instructors, river guides, psychosocial and medical facilitators from neighboring communities in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Participants arrived on Friday between 2 and 5 PM and were oriented with their schedules for the various activities for the weekend. They were then fitted for the necessary gear and equipment, on loan from Orvis. After breakfast on Saturday, I gave a lecture on fly fishing equipment. This was followed by a knot tying clinic. There was then a class in beginning casting, followed by warm-up exercises. After lunch a presentation entitled "Trout's Diet, Fly Selection and Photographing and Releasing Fish" was held. The afternoon program included advanced casting demonstrations, instruction and practice. Prior to dinner, there was a fly-tying class. The participants also attended discussions on medical and psychosocial issues.

Sunday started with a caravan to Evitts Ponds and Stream to fish and picnic. There were numerous River Helpers including Trout Unlimited Members, DNR staff, and many other volunteers. Their main purpose was to help these ladies make the most of their day in learning the art of casting, and catching fish (often sizeable). Following a sumptuous streamside picnic lunch, they resumed their instruction and fishing.

Sadly everything must end. After photo sessions, hugs and thank you's, it was time for the final activity of the retreat, the "graduation ceremony". All participants received diplomas and gift bags; a few words about continuation in the sport; CFR volunteer opportunities and support. They were also encouraged to sign up for membership in Trout Unlimited.

Thanks to all who made this possible and many thanks to our fly tyers: Ed Kraft and Bob Geib who donated their time and efforts and contributed flies for all the participants. I know they were very much appreciated.

**RFH**

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**Fly Of The Month**

**“Popsicle”**

Submitted by Jason Borger; Originated by George Cook



**Description**

A colorful, effective pattern for Great Lakes Steelhead and Salmon.

**Recipe:**

**HOOK:** #2-#8 Tiemco 7999.

**THREAD:** Salmon orange 6/0.

**HACKLE:** Deep blue-purple cock hackle.

**WING:** Hot pink and orange marabou.

**THROAT:** Silver flashabou.



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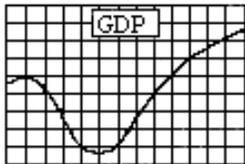
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# WHAT'S NEW AT:

## PA Fish & Boat Commission:

by Matthew Kofroth

### Exotic Species Confirmed in PA Waters

(PA Fish & Boat Commission press release - 7/23/04)

An unusual fish species native to Asia has been confirmed as being present in a Philadelphia waterway. Officials with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) today confirmed the presence of northern snakeheads in Meadow Lake within FDR Park. Snakeheads are a diverse family of fish native to parts of China, Russia, and Korea. All snakeheads are distinguished by their torpedo-shaped body, long dorsal and anal fins without spines, and toothed jaws. Northern snakeheads are typically distinguished by flattened, pointy heads with long lower jaws.

The first report of snakeheads in Meadow Lake came late last week when an angler caught two and contacted the Fish and Boat Commission. A total of six northern snakeheads have now been taken from the lake, including three captured by PFBC biologists. The lake is part of a maze of interconnected embayments and tidal sloughs and the Commission believes additional snakeheads are likely present elsewhere in the system.

The introduction of exotic species into areas beyond their natural range shifts the balance of an ecosystem. Exotics can introduce parasites, diseases, and genetic pollution of closely related species. At the very least, an otherwise innocuous exotic takes up space and food that might someday be used more beneficially by other species. Northern snakeheads are a predatory fish and will compete with other fish species for forage and habitat. It is too early to say what impact the presence of snakeheads will have on species already in Meadow Lake such as panfish, catfish, carp, gizzard shad, blueback herring, eels, and largemouth bass.

Commission biologists have concluded that there is no practical method for eradicating snakeheads from Meadow Lake and that, given the nature of the system, snakeheads may have already accessed adjoining waters like the nearby lower Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. As a result, the PFBC has

decided that it will monitor the pond and surrounding waters, but will take no concerted effort to eliminate the species. "Based on the experiences of other states where northern snakeheads have been previously identified and become established, we believe that an aggressive approach to eradicate the species from the Meadow Lake would be neither practical nor effective. Furthermore, efforts such as draining the lake or using fish toxins would likely do more damage to resident fish populations than the threatened competition for habitat and forage posed by the snakeheads themselves," said Dr. Douglas Austen, PFBC Executive Director.

Anglers catching snakeheads should dispose of them properly. It is against Fish and Boat Commission regulations to possess live snakeheads. Anglers certain they have caught a snakehead are encouraged not to release it, and report it to the Commission by calling 610-847-2442 or via e-mail to [mkaufmann@state.pa.us](mailto:mkaufmann@state.pa.us). Northern snakeheads are considered good table fare and were introduced to this country via fish markets, where they were often sold live. The Commission will produce and distribute literature designed to help area anglers identify northern snakeheads which are sometimes confused with native Pennsylvania species bowfin and eels.

Northern snakeheads first drew attention in the mid-Atlantic region in 2002 when a pair was discovered in a Maryland pond. Fed by national media coverage that dubbed the hardy species "Frankenfish", the public imagination was fueled by the fish's ability to live for periods of time out of water and to use its front fins to drag itself across land for short distances. While the northern snakehead may have established itself among the most famous aquatic invasive species, it is merely another on a growing list of such species. Foreign imports, such as the round goby found in Lake Erie, can have negative impacts on ecosystems. The ruffe, thought to have been transported via freighters, is another species in Lake Erie, where there are serious concerns. Zebra mussels are still another non-indigenous species impacting Lake Erie and now spreading to inland 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>September</b>	Board Meeting	Wed. 9/8-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	<b>Fly Fishing Expo</b>	Sat. 9/11-9:00 AM to 6:00 PM	<b>Ned Bushong Farm</b>	Fly Fishing Expo
	<b>Chapter Meeting</b>	Wed. 9/15-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites	“Restoring Shad to the Susquehanna River Basin” by Gil Hirschel
<b>October</b>	Board Meeting	Wed. 10/13-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	<b>October Fest Chapter Meeting</b>	Wed. 10/20-6:00 PM	<b>Four Season’s Golf Course Clubhouse</b>	“The East Coast Big Four” by Ed Jaworowski
<b>November</b>	Board Meeting	Wed. 11/10-7:00 PM	Millport Conservancy	Normal Meeting
	<b>Chapter Meeting</b>	Wed. 11/17-7:00 PM	Quality Inn & Suites	“Not Just Trout” by Ozzie Ozefovich

## **An “UnBelizeable” Adventure (Part 3)**

*(Continued from page 8)*

the 4 ft deep crystal clear water and found a world that was so beautiful it was hard to imagine it was real. I saw huge brain coral, immense conch shells, hundreds of kinds of colorful reef fish, and many types of corals and sponges in an array of colors. In one moment, it took my breath away and in another, I found myself so relaxed that my breathing slowed to a crawl. I checked to see where I was in relation to the boat and saw that Dottie had a hookup! I went under the surface and watched as she fought her Barr Jack. Cool! Fearing my back would fry to a crisp, I came aboard and ate lunch while we were entertained by a group of Pelicans.

Next, Jose decided that we would troll for barracudas. We rigged up a bait caster with a red tube lure and my fly rod with the “Cudalicious” fly (now with only a partial head, thanks to the last ‘cuda). Dottie got a hit! It was a nice one about 3 ft long. As we motored back to the flats and Snook grounds, we were astonished to find out that Jose had already filleted the Barracuda enroute. We had two dolphins swim past our bow and had an enjoyable ride back. We looked for cruising Bones and saw schools of needlefish and a barracuda resting nearby. I quickly picked up my rod with the ‘cuda fly, and cast three times but the ‘cuda just sat there. On a fourth try, he decided to leave. Not interested. Still it was a great and memorable day!

That evening we ate the barracuda. It was delicious! After getting on the subject of cashews at dinner, Mike, our host, brought out some “private label” cashew wine; it tasted a bit like sherry. We would meet up with the “boat guys” (the four who fished from the *Blue Yonder* mother ship) the next day and trade stories, drink beer (even before 11 am!), relax, and think about returning next year before heading back to the airport for the trip home.



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Mayflyer

## An “UnBelizeable” Adventure (Part 3) By Deirdre “Fishingmaniac” Lehman

I made my desires known that I wanted to try for Permit on the last day, the one fish that had alluded me the entire week. I went out with Dottie D’Orazio and Jose for my last day fishing. It was a beautiful morning and would turn out to be the best weather of the trip. We planned to go out to the reef so I put my snorkeling gear on board. On the way out, though, Jose wanted to try the Tarpon flats, he is definitely fond of the silver kings. He said it was a Tarpon kind of day which means low wind, glass-like water and sunny. Dottie and I had turns at the casting platform. I had my orange grizzly fly on (my confidence fly) and after several strips, had a hit right at the boat and I saw a large bucket-mouth open up on the fly! However, instead of leaving the rod tip down, I lifted it and missed the fish. I swore a little and looked back at Jose, who made the strong strip-strike motion with his hands. “Ok, Jose, Ok”, I muttered to myself. We saw more Tarpon rolling everywhere, lots of fins! Again, I got a strike but couldn’t set the hook. It’s a lot easier to hook set when you don’t see the fish and get all “feverish”. And anyway, how was I going to handle an 80 pound Tarpon while still recovering from a large Tarpon battle only a few days before? Frankly, I was kind of relieved.

The Tarpon settled down or moved, so we decided to head for the reef at Gallows Point. Jose patiently poled the boat as we searched for Permit just within the reef barrier. We saw divers and snorkelers on the other side of the reef, but the water looked a bit rough. Suddenly, Jose anxiously said, “Permit, two, in front about 60 yards!” Dottie was up and cast her fly, but the wind was a bit strong. She cast her Merkin crab fly again, but the Permit kept on cruising toward the reef and over to the other side of it. We kept looking. Again, a few Permit came into view (they look black from above). I cast my Borski slider and got a Permit to follow it. Strip, strip, strip; follow, follow and then he turned away when he saw the boat. I had several chances like that, and they just refused to bite! On the second chance, the Permit followed and my line tightened and I thought “Finally!” only to discover a little yellowtail Jack decided the fly looked tasty. Well, it was a pretty fish, even though it was small.

Jose poled the boat over toward the good snorkeling grounds for our lunch break. I donned my snorkeling gear and Dottie took a most unflattering picture of me with it on. I jumped into

*(Continued on page 7)*