



Mayflyer

Donegal Trout Unlimited

February 2011 Vol. 41 # 1

What's Emerging

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hibernation time! Not for DTU! Just as many of us are preparing for the coming fishing season by tying flies and checking gear the DTU Board is preparing for a new year of stream work and education.

The Trout in the Classroom program is alive and well in five Lancaster County classrooms. Brad McClain (Warwick), Josh Shortuse (Ephrata), Jim Hovan (CV) and Eric Mast (Manheim Central) have reported that their eggs have hatched and the fingerlings are doing well. In the spring the surviving fingerlings will be released into Lititz Run, Moore's Run or Hammer Creek. To quote Jim Hovan, "This program is worth its weight in gold."

Tom Royer, Nursery Chair, is busy contacting various sources who will supply seedlings for DTU's tree/shrub nursery. He will be purchasing approximately 1000 plants for 2011. In the Spring the trees will be potted and over the summer they will be fed and watered as needed. In early Fall they will be planted along Climber's Run, Donegal Springs Creek, Lititz Run and several Conowingo tributaries.

Planning for the Special Olympics Fishing Derby has gotten underway. Faye Haering, Volunteer Coordinator, has already made arrangements for a place and is awaiting confirmation from the Special Olympics committee regarding the selected dates.

Kevin Hirst, DTU Youth Fly Fishing Workshop Coordinator, has selected a date and is working on a site for the workshop. He is organizing his support team and planning the activities that the youth will engage in. He expects to have a pond where the kids will be able to apply their newly acquired skills.

Bob Albright, Program Chair, is working on programs for the next six months. The April meeting,

which will be a swap meet at the Farm & Home Center, will require some additional planning to gather equipment and organize the evening.

Planning for the annual banquet/fund raiser, scheduled for Saturday April 2, has begun in earnest. Dan Brandt, Banquet Coordinator, has made contact assignments for the committee members to solicit funds and items from the community. Well over 400 contacts will be made in order to acquire the needed donations and items for the raffles and auction

Continued, page 2

Corner

Volunteer Buttons are now available for fishing Millport Conservancy in 2011. Purchase them at a meeting for \$20 or contact me for mailing instructions. Current members of Donegal TU or Millport Conservancy only. Contact Faye Haering at fayeonthefly@comcast.net or 285-2572.

Set aside Saturday, April 2 on your calendar for our annual banquet. Volunteers will be needed to help throughout the event. Volunteers will be needed to help out on the committee as well and in soliciting donations. Please contact Dan Brandt (flyguy66@ptd.net or 717.341.1581) if interested.

Save the dates: Fly On The Run, Wednesday & Thursday, May 18 & 19 at Millport Conservancy on Lititz Run. Stream monitors will be needed. Help stocking the stream the prior week will be needed as well.

Save the date: Lancaster County Sportsmen for Youth Field Day on Saturday, June 4, 2011. More details next issue.

FAYE E. HAERING,
DTU VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

FEBRUARY MEETING

FEBRUARY 16

JEFFREY DEITRICH
STATE
OF THE
BROOK TROUT
FARM & HOME
CENTER
ARCADIA ROAD
7:00 PM

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Chapter Planner

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FEBRUARY

9th: 7 pm
16th: 7 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center

Jeff Deitrich
Brook Trout Status

MARCH

9th: 7 pm
16th: 7 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center

Bob Ballantyne
Preserving Cutts &
Graying in Yellowstone

APRIL

13th: 7 pm
20th: 7 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center

Member Swap Meet &
Sale

Welcome New Members

Brian Cunningham
759 Sharon Drive
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Karl Yoder
7 Oak Lane
Strasburg, PA 17579
karlyoder@comcast.net

Roy Yoder
341 West Lemon Street

President, continued

events. The committee has decided the format, events, floor plan and event sequence for the evening.

Bob Kutz, Conservation Chair, is working with PA Fish & Boat, Mark Metzler (Wild Resources), US Fish & Wildlife Services, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, Lancaster County Conservation District and county farmers to identify projects for DTU for 2011. So far two projects in the Conowingo Watershed have been identified. They are the Daniel Schmucker farm and Tanglewood Golf Course. Another possible project is several stretches on the upper Donegal Springs Creek. We need to begin the paperwork and permit applications now so that the projects will be completed by Fall.

As I look outside the snow is falling at the rate of about an inch per hour but the planning will go on. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the banquet on Saturday April 2 at the Host Resort on Route 30 East. Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting.

WAYNE BOGGS

“Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after” by Henry David Thoreau

Committee Reports

PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 16

Jeffrey Deitrich, from Penn State University will present a program on "State of the Brook Trout: Are Wild Brook Trout Enhancement Regulations Working?"

MARCH 16

Bob Ballantyne, freelance outdoor writer for over 30 years has fished for a quarter century in Yellowstone National Park. He will present a special program on how biologists with the National Park Service have embarked on an ambitious effort to preserve genetically pure strains of several species of native fish in selected park waters. These include two subspecies of Cutthroat Trout & Arctic Grayling.

APRIL 20

At the April DTU chapter meeting, we will be featuring a Swap Meet & Sale.

Here's your chance to clean out any unwanted fishing tackle & gear for cash or trade. Attendees will be able to buy, sell & trade both new & used fishing tackle and gear among themselves immediately following the business portion of the meeting.

Everything for sale or trade will be brought by individuals on the night of the meeting.

The Swap Meet & Sale is designed to provide a forum for chapter members to buy, sell & trade THEIR OWN unwanted tackle & gear. The success of this event will require everyone to gather together your unwanted items and bring them with you to the meeting. The meeting room will have plenty of tables for everyone to display their items. PLEASE BE SURE TO IDENTIFY ITEMS WITH YOUR NAME AND ASKING PRICE.

Start gathering your stuff and get ready for a fun night of bartering & negotiating!!

Contact Bob Albright with any questions @ 717-468-4215

BOB ALBRIGHT
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

BANQUET

Once again it's time to think Spring. Mark your calendars for April 2. This year we celebrate our 32nd Annual Spring Fund-Raising Banquet, held again this year at the Lancaster Host Resort. Next to receiving a state grant, this is our largest fundraiser of the year. Last year, with the help of our banquet donors, we raised over \$30,000 dollars in that one night for DTU. This money is well spent on our local streams, along with educational support in our area schools. Doors open at 4:30 pm with dinner at approximately 6:30pm. Dinner this year will be a large buffet with fresh bread, your choice of 3 salads, 3 meats, 3 sides, dessert, coffee, tea and drink. WOW! all for the same price as we had last year, \$30.00 each or you can purchase a Gold Table for \$40.00 which will get you front row seating, extra goodies and tickets in your gift bag and a chance to win \$100.00 cash.

The door prizes went over so well last year, we thought we would do it again this year. The ticket for the door prize table will be in your seating packet as you come in and register. Tickets will be pulled throughout the night. There will be many items on the table and lots of chances to win for everyone.

Buckets: This year we have decided to do ten buckets. You buy the tickets in strips and disburse them in any bucket you would like to win. The more tickets you buy and throw in a bucket you would like, the better your chances. So buy those tickets.

Back again from last year are our Theme Baskets. Extra large baskets filled full of items that have to do with the theme on the basket. This will be a silent bid. You will use your bid number to bid on the basket or baskets you would like to have and write in the amount you would be willing to pay for that basket. The same as the silent auction, the starting bid will be established with reasonable increments.

Here is a short list of some of the items we have so far: Bid on Baskets with over 200 dollars worth of items in each one; CFR Rod and Reel; Buy tickets and put them in the Bucket you would like to win; Vocal Auction Items such as Eagles Tickets, Fishing Trips, Vacation Condo Packages, Gas Grills, Ladies' Jewelry, Dinners and Shows, Furniture, Rods and Reels; Over 100 Silent Auction items such as Hand-tied flies, Prints, Dishes, Books, Life-Vests, more Jewelry, Rods, Reels; Door Prizes all night long.

The rest of the evening will be filled with plenty of entertainment. This year again we brought in two gentlemen playing acoustical guitars throughout the evening with music from the 60's to the 90's. Along with all the vocal auctions, silent auctions and the many raffles through out the room; we will be drawing the winners for the \$1000 Super Fund ticket at the end of the evening. These are the tickets you will have received with your registration form. If you would like more tickets, please call or e-mail me and I will send them out to you.

Phone: 664-2332 (home) or 341-1581 (cell).
E-mail: flyguy66@ptd.net

All your info and registration forms will be in the mail soon, or you can download your registration form from our website. Remember to save the date and bring a friend for a night of fun.

Hope to see you there,

DAN BRANDT, BANQUET CHAIRMAN

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CALL FOR INFORMATION.

Lynn W. Myers, Executive Director
737 East Millport Road
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Phone: 717-626-0414
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Please contact Glen Nephin at gnephin@ptd.net or 271-9208.

Off the hook with a canny wee trootie

We were fishing upstream of the Fasnakyle power station on the River Glass above Glen Affric in the Scottish Highlands.

It had taken five years to get Angus to say more than a few sentences to me. He jealously guarded his secret pools where the best trout lie.

One of Angus's jobs was to guide the estate's big-paying clients in the salmon season to the runs in the Glass that may yield a salmon. Wild brown trout were our quarry.

My wife and I had no interest in salmon. Instead, we were content with brown trout with their iridescent rose moles on their flanks. But in high summer, the trout go deep and these dog days are often fishless. This is where Angus excelled.

Angling for a "wee trootie", as he called them, was for him a challenge in summer's bright light and cloying heat. He had a reputation for catching fish on days when no others could. He swore by the Blae and Black.

In the argot of fly anglers, every fly has a history. This is derived from the first who tied it, tried it and gave it a name. Not the Blae and Black.

This added to its arcane quality. No one has ever been able to pinpoint the genesis of the fly, let alone the date of its first tying. It has evolved from obscure Scottish traditions. And Angus was a custodian of the old ways.

A treasured fly passed on stays with the receiver and no one else. Angus had received his "before the war in Sutherland from Fergus". Whoever Fergus was, Angus wasn't telling. He gave me a mere fleeting look at the fly but would not let me cast with it.

One fly in a lifetime is sure to be tattered and worn. Angus had the answer. His daughter Morag was disabled and unable to walk. A mature woman, she lived further down the glen and passed her days tying flies for various Highland angling outlets.

Morag had taken the Blae and Black apart, understood its unique elements and retied it. Once she had the pattern, fly lingo for the design, committed to memory, she would tie a Blae and Black for her father.

"Ya canna hae the Blae and Black,"
said Angus the gillie
as we tied on our flies."

Morag would not reveal the fly's design to anyone. It was a pact between them.

On the evening Angus deigned to accompany me, the Aussie angler, we fished about 50m apart. Angus cast his fly into the peaty water and immediately it disappeared with a plop. A muscular 2kg trout was soon at his feet. That was all he did. One cast, one fish, home.

Trout angling in the Scottish Highlands draws its own clan. There are men and a few women, who wear hairy tweed jackets and hats, carry engraved hip flasks full of single malt whisky and say little. Some occasionally sport ties knotted carelessly at the collars of their checked tattersall shirts.

Lachlan, a taciturn highlander, even had a chrome trout on the bonnet of his Rover.

Beyond the Blae and Black being a fabled and coveted fly, Angus's daughter, immobile and house-bound, knew more about trout behaviour than most anglers in a lifetime of fishing. She was a kind of Highland trout guru. More than once I went to her to solve a streamside problem. Morag's prodigious knowledge was acute.

"Are ye castin' behind the big rowan?" she asked me.

The big rowan tree shelters a deep pool. It is the kind of place that trout anglers fantasise about. At the head of the pool, a tinkling burn comes in bubbling and gurgling. This gives way to a languid slow moving dark sheet of clear water. The pool then runs out in a swift funnel over smooth stones.

Trout in the pool have their food rushing to them so they were resident, canny and well conditioned.

I had cast to one trout for three days. Each day it would rise to the fly. I used a Claret Spinner, a cunning twist of scarlet wool with a flash of metallic thread. The fish would inspect the fly and then in a silver glinting moment disappear. It was the same fish each time. It had a particular way of rising, fast and urgent, then immediately being perfectly stock-still.

"It's the Blue Dun ye need," she said decisively. In a trice Morag had tied me a pair of flies. At the pool, one cast and the trout rose, took the fly, then instantly spat it out. Game over.

Unbeknown to that trout in a pool in the River Glass, it was a cast that moved me from an angler wanting to catch fish to one who wanted to use nothing more than guile to coax them. I decided to fish with barbless hooks.

That is about as monumental a decision a trout angler can make outside giving up completely. I had been warned this would happen years before by an angler I met in passing at Launching Place in Victoria's Yarra Valley.

There is a time, usually a single memorable minute, when anglers who have been fishing for many years move to a stage of angling where all that matters is the sheer joy of watching a trout take a fly.

That is the quintessential level of achievement. If the fly is the correct one, has been presented to fool a

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wild trout, then that is enough. Some say going barbless is a kind of spiritual piscatorial awakening.

Angus, ever pragmatic, fished for the table. One trout for his supper for him and his wife to share by the fire in their cottage was enough. I did not expect that I would stop stalking trout. I was hooked on the high a satisfying weight - a brace of good 'uns - in the bag gave me. But the barbless day came.

To watch a wild brown trout emerge luminous and mottled from pristine Scottish water then instantly begin to fade in sunlight is an experience that

changes people. Some anglers do it once, others several times, but it stops one day. And it is an awareness that travels as well.

I have fished the Jamieson River in Victoria's northeast as a home river for more than three decades. I now take no fish. But with barbless hooks on a summer evening, I hear the splash, see the spray of crystalline water in moonlight as a trout rises. And then, the heavy tug for a split second, before the fly is taken and rejected. For me, it is enough.

CHRISTOPHER BANTICK
FROM: THE AUSTRALIAN
DECEMBER 27, 2010

CHRISTOPHER BANTICK IS A MELBOURNE WRITER
AND TROUT ANGLER WHO STILL DREAMS ABOUT THE
BLAE AND BLACK.



STREAM IN GLEN AFFRIC, DOUBTLESS FULL
OF WEE TROUT

PHOTO COURTESY ROY V. STROUD &
MATTHEW STROUD