Editors Notes

N. Loprire

It's true; Punxsutawney Phil has been indicted for fraud in his calling for an early spring. Wow, I've lost any and all faith in his ability to do anything right, outside of digging his den. I wonder if Buckeye Chuck is any better.

Finally the weather has broken; it's better now so why wouldn't that mean it was fixed vs. "broken". Any way its nice. The buds are coming on strong and the fishing is getting better with each day. Hope your fishing season is a good and safe one. Remember Mother Nature can be cruel so be cautious out there.

Remember that the newsletter is by email only or find it on our website (see below). If you receive it and know someone who doesn't, print a copy for them or let them know to have their kids, relatives or friends check out our website (www.neshannock-tu.org) to get the latest issue of the "Clearwater Gazette". There, they can print a copy of the newsletter for that individual.

IF YOU HAVE EMAIL and ARE NOT getting the newsletter PLEASE send your address to Tom Jochman TomJochman@sbcglobal.net and he will put you in the mailing database. Other board member emails are on our website.

This is the last newsletter until November, but you can visit our website any time to get updated info or links to other items of interest.

2013 Coolspring Work Day Schedule

Jeff Kremis

We had a great workday April 6th, cleaning up the winter ravages along the walking path and repairing some of the foot bridges along the way. The weather even cooperated and we all enjoyed pizza and good conversation afterwards. We had a good turnout of 15 or so volunteers and we are grateful to all who participated.

Next on the agenda is the third and final phase of the Coolspring Stream Bank Stabilization Project. The date is June 29, 2013 and we will work with Mark Sausser of the PFBC. Anyone who was involved in the workday last summer can tell you these devices take plenty of machine and manpower (womanpower welcome

also) to complete in one day so please plan to attend.

Cut out Schedule below.

June 29' 2013 - Phase III Coolspring improvement (PFBC will coordinate) 8:00am At Parking lot.

Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The Munnell Run Nursery has been renamed

The "Pete Anthony Nursery". Pete Anthony
is a long time member of Neshannock

Chapter of Trout Unlimited and a driving
force behind the operation and success of
the nursery. A new sign denoting the
change of names for the nursery has been
placed on the building at Munnell Run
Farm.

Spring stocking of our nursery brown trout has begun, but there are additional stockings that will take place in May. If you are interested in helping at the nursery or with stocking get in touch with the names below. It is fun, a learning opportunity and something you might enjoy especially if you have kids or grandkids. Call Bill Stevenson at 724.342.0472, or email caryolnandbill@verizon.net ,or Ken Tarczy buggertarz@yahoo.com at 724.662.5765. Call to arrange for a tour with your kids.

Our Revised Website

WWW.Neshannock-TU.org

N. Loprire

The "facelift" on our website is nearing completion.

WE ARE IN NEED of a webmaster to update the information on our website. If you are willing to help please contact Jeff Kremis Bently48@neo.rr.com or Tom Jochman TomJochman@sbcglobal.net. It is should not require too much time or effort so if you can help, let us know.

We are now getting trained on how to load and update information to the site. Hopefully when you get this newsletter some of the updating will have begun. For sure we will get the newsletter on there as a first priority and then begin to update information on the other areas of the website. This will take some time

to complete but it should make our website a very useful tool for the trout and conservation enthusiasts' out there. It will include links to get you just about anywhere you would like to navigate.

2013 Spring Banquet

Carol Jochman

The 35th annual banquet was a rousing success and a big thanks goes out to all of you who attended and for your support of our continued cold water conservation efforts. We also have a good time pursuing our goals and enjoying the banquet is certainly a fun time.

We had great prizes, and delicious food with a good bar, expert fly tying by Dr. Moxley, decorations by Carol Jochman and finally a fun, enthusiastic crowd. What more could you ask for? Next year, talk your friends into being there. By the way for you early birds the banquet next year is March 15th 2014 at the Radisson..mark it down.

We could not have made it so nice without the help and donations from those named below. Please keep those companies in mind if you need services they can provide. To all of them, a sincere thank you and the same to all that helped at the banquet.

Individual Donations

Pat Babcock Rick & Regina Gallant

Bud Hanselman Tom & Carol Jochman

Dr. Michael Keith Nick Loprire

Kent Mazey Dr. Charles Moxley

Dick Natoli Michael Bires

Jon McGill

Company Donations

Avalon Golf & CC Ben Bissett Chevrolet

Greens of Greenville McCandless Ford

Neshannock Crk Fly Shop

Park Inn by Radisson

Shannon's Kandy Kitchen YSU Athletics

iso Athretics

Blind Horse Knives

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Update: School Year 2012-2013

Reg McClelland

The most recent Trout in the Classroom update has for the most part been a positive one.

Janice Abernethy from East Middle School in Greenville is reporting 60+ surviving fish that are very active and feeding well. She recently sent me some photos that we will try to get up on the new web site as soon as it is fully functional. Jan is very excited with their results so far with this being their first year. There is a lot to learn about raising trout in an aquarium in a classroom. Kind of like fishing itself, you never really learn it all, something is always changing.

Luke Rust from the Mercer school district is also reporting to be having a great year so far. With at least one hundred living fry, they have started doing daily feedings. As Luke said with more feedings there will be more maintenance of the tank and water because of the extra debris left in the bottom of the tank.

There has been some reports of schools having large sudden die offs, and they have not been able to figure out why. Hopefully things will work out well enough for all schools to have some fish to release this coming May.

Thanks to all are teachers for making this program a huge success statewide.

$\frac{\textbf{Annual Oil Creek Outing 5/11/13}}{\text{N. Loprire}}$

With Mother Nature's cooperation we will hold our annual Chapter's May outing at Petroleum Center in Oil Creek State Park. Typically, if we can reserve it, we will be at "Shelter #1" at Petroleum Center. This area is in the lower Delayed Harvest section of Oil Creek State Park and is easy to find. Contact Jeff Kremis (724 588 4378) or Tom Jochman 330 544 2507 if you are coming as we need a head count for food. We can also help with directions if needed. Tom will be heading up the event this year.

We will plan to have a picnic lunch at noon, so put the rods in the car and head back to the shelter around 11:30 am for hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, pop, etc.

provided by the chapter. It is a good chance to meet fellow chapter members, get the skinny on the hatches and fishing and enjoy a hot lunch. After lunch you are free to fish until your kitchen pass runs out. There will not be a rain date so check the flow conditions on Neshannock Creek Fly Shop's website www.ncflyshop.com if the weather looks problematic. Oil Creek will fish well at a flow of 500 cfs or lower.

If things are "right" the green caddis should be hatching and it should be fun.

Save Those Cans but DON'T CRUSH!!

If you recycle aluminum cans and live in the Mercer area and want to help out TU, listen up. FIRST, do not crush the cans as there is a label on the them that will return money for cans from certain states. Not sure how we reclaim that but please don't crush. Just take them in bags to the TU Trout Nursery on the Mercer County Conservation district grounds off Rt 58, just north of Mercer. For questions call Jim Mondok at 724 981 4513.

Fly Fishing for Crappie N. Loprire

Though Fishing for trout will always trump the pursuit of panfish for me, I still enjoy the short jaunt to Mosquito Lake or to Shenango Lake to try for crappie when trout aren't biting or the streams are too high. The books will tell you they are easy to catch in the spring, but as you know, it's not always as found in a book.

Crappies are very temperature sensitive when it comes to spawning. Don't look for Crappie in the shallows unless the water temperature is 60 degrees and holds there over night. If a cold front comes in with the addition of wind, most likely you will have to wait for a warm up and stabile conditions before finding them invading the shallow areas again. Look for them along rip rap, shallow shore line with snags and willows. With a gentle breeze blowing, fish these areas with an on shore wind. The wind moves plankton, warmer surface water, and the minnows flow so, guess what, the crappie follow the bait.

Spin fisherman use a small slip bobber with a jig or bait positioned below. A good point to remember is that Crappie feed up and it's better to have your presentation shallow vs. too deep. will rise to take a jig or fly but usually won't go down to a bait that is below them. Fly fisherman can fish lightly weight minnow style streamers or flashy white woolly buggers in size 8. A good point to remember is to move your presentation with a steady, SLOW, retrieve. A bait that falls slowly is more likely to get bit vs. that 1/8 oz jig that is rocketing toward the bottom. For more good fly patterns for Crappie, try going on to the internet to "YouTube" and type in "Crappie flies". You will get "how to" videos on tying them. Another alternative for fly anglers is to look for very light jigs in the 1/50th to 1/80th oz. range and dress with flashy materials. Light jigs will handle well on a fly rod.

Flipping a light jig or fly into shallow areas around snags, or other structure can produce fast action in the spring for Crappies. Did I mention that they are fabulous eating. Make sure you check your regulations for size and bag limits. In most Ohio lakes it is a 9 in minimum and 30 per day bag limit. My opinion is that a 10in or better Crappie is worth cleaning. Under that throw back and wait for next year. Good luck this spring whether it is Crappie or trout.

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"Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation, for your character is what you are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." - Dale Carnegie

"A trout is a fish known mainly by hearsay. It lives on anything not included in a fisherman's equipment." H.I. Phillips