

### Editors Notes

N. Loprire

Finally we have escaped the grip of winter and better weather is ahead. Based on the long winter, the hatches appear to be about 10 days or so behind normal so plan your fishing accordingly. Stop in the fly shops or call to get the latest info on the fishing. If you can meet a local while fishing, ask if you can call them to check conditions before you make your next trip.

Check the website to get the latest info on what's happening with the Marcellus and Utica drilling in Pa or contact Jim Kearney at [mayfly1278@aol.com](mailto:mayfly1278@aol.com). The website has everything to do with our chapter...check it out.

**Attention:** There are a number of vintage (mid 70's and later) Fly Fisherman, Gray's Sporting Journals, and Pennsylvania Game News, magazines available for FREE. Call me (330 307 0884) if Interested. They will be taken to the library, or otherwise given away so call soon.

**IF YOU Have GIVEN US YOUR EMAIL and ARE NOT** getting the newsletter **PLEASE** send your email address to Tom Jochman [TomJochman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TomJochman@sbcglobal.net) and he can check for an error in recording or will put you on the mailing database.

This will be the last newsletter until fall, so be safe in all your adventures this summer and remember to take a plastic shopping bag to gather trash (that so-called "sportsman" leave behind) at the end of your fishing day.

### Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The nursery crew reported that all is well with their "babies" and they are about 11 inches. They will certainly be an inch longer by spring stocking which will be about the time of this issue. For more info on the nursery call Bill Stevenson at 724.342.0472, or email [caryolnandbill@verizon.net](mailto:caryolnandbill@verizon.net), or Ken Tarczy [buggertarz@yahoo.com](mailto:buggertarz@yahoo.com) at 724.662.5765. Call to arrange for a tour with your kids and to volunteer for stocking the fish. Great idea for the kids to see the fish being stocked.

### Our Revised Website

[WWW.Neshannock-TU.org](http://WWW.Neshannock-TU.org)

N. Loprire

We are slowly getting the "bugs" out of our new website and are getting more up to date usable information uploaded. The 2014 Feb-March newsletter is available there and we will get this issue loaded by April 29th. Check it out and give us feedback if you can.

### 2014 Spring Banquet

Carol Jochman & Nick Loprire

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual banquet was a great success. The **PIG ROAST** menu was great and as usual all the food was delicious and no one went away hungry. It was a very pleasant surprise to see the lively verbal bidding on this year's art. Special thanks to Jon "Gibby" Gilbert to the painted slate work and the previous years framed print, along with the wonderful carved brook trout from Bob Bellino. It's very fortunate that we have such talent in our area. Thanks also go out to Doug Rohrer and Dr. Charles Moxley for their help in making this banquet a success.

### Unassessed Waters

Jeff Kremis

At our Winter Membership meeting we had a presentation from Renae Hodorowicz from the Western PA Conservancy on the Unassessed Waters Initiative. We have decided to get involved in the program and were given streams in the Neshannock Creek, Slippery Rock Creek and Sandy Creek Watersheds to work on. If you are not familiar with the program it involves going out and fishing small streams that have not already been assessed by the PFBC and reporting if you caught or saw any sign of wild trout. These reports help the PFBC prioritize what streams need further assessment. Streams that are known to hold wild trout are given greater protection from encroachment. More information on the program can be found at [www.fishandboat.com/unassessedwaters.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/unassessedwaters.htm).

As of now maps of the watersheds listed have not been put on the website but should be soon. I do have maps of the Neshannock Creek watershed that I can send you if you are interested. If you would like to get involved contact Jeff

Kremis at [bentley48@neo.rr.com](mailto:bentley48@neo.rr.com) for more details.

### Trout in the Classroom April 2014 update

**Reg McClelland**

All the teachers that are participating in the Trout in the Classroom project this year have checked in and are reporting to have fish to release. Some more than others, but that seems to be normal.

There haven't been any real equipment failures as far as I know this year but all the teachers are reporting smaller fish this year. Mostly because they say they are feeding less and reporting a little colder water, probably because the chillers have been working well this year and also because of the colder temperatures in general this winter.

Update; I have just been informed that there has been a catastrophe of sorts, Jan Abernethy has informed me that she has lost all of her fish, for the second time this year. Apparently they had lost all of their fish due to a problem with the filter sucking them all up. So the fish commission replaced the eggs. The second batch was doing fine until about a month ago when the fish started dying. They never found the problem and eventually lost them all. Hopefully they will figure it all out and things will go better next year.

I know a couple of the groups, including us at Neshannock TU have applied for a grant through Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited to purchase some needed replacement parts to support the ongoing project.

We still have three schools involved, Rick Stephens in Hermitage, Luke Rust in Mercer and Jan Abernethy in East Elementary in Greenville. We are also involved with Karl Rupert, who has two projects up and running in the Farrell School System. We were not the sponsor for these two projects but I like to keep in touch with Karl and include them in

the updates. They are doing a fine job at the Farrell schools and have released some of the highest numbers of fish. Although I must say that it is really not about the numbers, it's about the

experience. Everyone is planning for a late April or early May release date for their fish. Hopefully for everyone involved the weather will cooperate and the water levels will be at a normal flow for a safe release.

As always if you're interested in more info you can always go to the PATU web site at; <http://www.patROUT.org/> or the TIC web site at; <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/>. We as a chapter have also been trying to get as many students as we can to join Trout Unlimited. Where they can continue to learn about conservation and get a chance to use some of the things they have learned through the TIC projects.

We also have tried a new project this year in one of the local schools. Thanks to Neshannock Chapter's Bill Melaro and Mercer teacher Luke Rust they started a fly fishing class that was held for four classes at the Mercer school. I will let Bill fill everyone in on how the class went but the end result is that we will have a few new young members of Trout Unlimited.

### Kids Wolf Creek Fishing Derby

Richard Natoli

Neshannock Chapter of Trout Unlimited, The Borough of Grove City, and The Grove City Sportsman's Club is sponsoring the **10th annual Children's Fishing Derby** at the Wolf Creek Handicapped Fishing area on Greenwood Drive.

The date is Saturday, April 26th, with a rainout date scheduled for May 3rd. The derby is free and open to children 12 and under and individuals with disabilities. The location is one fourth of a mile south of E. Main Street (Route 58) on Greenwood Drive in Grove City, Pa.

Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the kids will get free hats with the Wolf

Creek Fishing Derby logo. They can help carry Brown Trout to the stream in 5 gallon buckets at 9:00 am. Free hot dogs and soft drinks are provided for lunch at 12:00 noon, and afterwards, every participant will receive a prize.

### Introductory Classes to Fly Fishing

Bill Melaro

Recently the Chapter presented some introductory classes to fly fishing and related topics to three students from Mercer Junior/Senior High School along with TIC teacher Luke Rust. Participants attended four after school meetings. In the first meeting they were introduced to Trout Unlimited, Coldwater Conservation, the Neshannock Chapter, setting up fly rods and reels including information on lines, leaders, tippets, a few knots, and on stream etiquette.

In the second meeting students learned to cast, including roll casts. They then were given time to practice under the watchful eyes of chapter members.

The third and fourth meetings were about fly tying. First the students learned some basics and tied their own streamer. In the last class they reviewed the basics and tied nymphs.



At a yet to be determined date, Chapter members will accompany the participants on a fishing outing when they will have an opportunity to test their casting skills and use the flies they tied.

Hopefully, some new members will have been added to the ranks of conservation minded fishermen as a result of the Chapter's reaching out to the youth of our area.

Finally, I would like to thank Dick Natoli, Jeff Kremis, and Nick Loprire for assisting me on this project.

### Oil Creek Outing

Jeff Kremis

The annual chapter outing to Oil Creek State Park will take place on **Saturday May 10 at Petroleum Center in Oil Creek State Park.** You can start fishing whenever and we normally meet up at Shelter #1 at 11:30 for a free hamburger and hotdog lunch with all the fixings. There you relate tales of success and failure for your morning's efforts and mingle with friends. When done stuffing yourselves you can resume fishing until your "kitchen pass" runs out. **PLEASE CALL Jeff at 724 588 4378 or Nick at 330 307 0884** or email us if you plan to come as we need to plan for food. Phone numbers and emails for Jeff Kremis, Carol Jochman and Nick Loprire are on the Home page under "contact us" at the bottom of the page. [www.neshannock-tu.org](http://www.neshannock-tu.org) .

If Mother Nature picks up the pace with a warming trend, there should be some olive caddis hatching. If not, the nymph fishing is always good. If the weather is bad there will **NOT BE A MAKE UP DATE.** Check the flow rate through Neshannock Creek fly shops website ([www.ncflyshop.com](http://www.ncflyshop.com) ). Go to "stream condition". A flow rate of 650 cfs or less is good. Above 720 it is tough for fly fishing.

### It's Your Place Too!

N. Loprire

Since we were all old enough to fish or hunt or just hike the woods you have experienced the inexplicable side of human nature. Specifically the "outdoorsman" that takes the time and effort to make sure he has everything he needs for an enjoyable day on the water or in the woods. Once the sandwich is consumed, the new lure tied to the line, the wrapping is tossed to the ground as if the person's mother was right behind to pick up for them. Immature and disgusting is the only way to describe

this selfish behavior. Yet, these dregs of the sporting world are the first to bi-ch about private areas posted due to littering. Let me say this for all the concerned, real, sportsman, that to litter is disgusting and therefore so are those who are smart enough to bring what they need but too lazy and ignorant to take their waste out.

I hope no one reading this is part of the problem and if you are I hope this will make you realize the impact of your thoughtlessness.

I have seen excellent fishing waters posted because fishermen wouldn't heed simple requests by the land owner to not fish a small area directly in front of his house. They simply didn't care about any rules; they applied to others, not them. Today, there is no access FOR ANYONE to over a mile of great steelhead water.

Do not let litter lay. Take bag with you and pick up trash along the way. It's good for sportsman - landowner relationships and just the right thing to do. Be a champion for keep our outdoors clean. It's never too early to teach your kids about littering. It's something that is seen on TV but the best lessons come from parents.

Good luck this upcoming season. Remember that you learn something on each outing. The trick is to not forget and keep it in your bag of tricks.

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."

**John Buchan**