

Editors Notes

N. Loprire

Thank you Mother Nature for having mercy on us so far this winter. My snow blower has yet to fire up and I am thankful for that. I just hope there is no "catching up" with the remainder of winter.

Headlines, the party is over, as just removed 9 inches from my drive. Hopefully the last gasp of winter.

Steelhead fishing was very slow in the late fall and winter brought enough cold to ice up the rivers when the rains finally came at Christmas time. Talking to other fishermen, the consensus is that the returns are not close to 2008-2009. Not just Pa, but same in Ohio and NY. Still no one of an official capacity has any reasonable explanation. It is puzzling that Pa continues to use monies to provide easements for fishermen to more easily access the rivers to catch **NO FISH!!** Something is screwed up here.

Let's get ready to...have a great time at the 38th annual spring banquet. Check out our newly designed and updated website for info. Read below.

We (Matt Ceramuga) has redone our WEBSITE and it is up and running. Information is updated and we will soon be on **FACEBOOK**. The address is not changed so you can still find it at www.neshannock-tu.org/. Check it out and you should be able to easily find more and better info about what is happening with the chapter, both local, state, and national.

2016 Spring Banquet Heads Up

Carol Jochman & Nick Loprire

The 38th **annual spring banquet** is coming sooner than you think. The date is **MARCH 19th 2016 at 5:00pm at The Park Inn by Radisson**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. You KNOW it will be a good time so BE THERE!! Ticket prices will be the same as last year. \$35 for a single, but the **BEST VALUE** is the individual "sponsor ticket" at \$90. Why, you might ask, well look at what you get. Admission to the banquet, 20 bucket raffle tickets (worth \$80), 10 rod raffle tickets and 5 meat raffle tickets. That is a \$130 value. You SAVE **\$40**. **Buy your ticket by March 5th and you are entered in a drawing for a \$50 Gift Card**. See

website for ticket forms or call a board member or available also at the Neshannock Creek Fly Shop in Volant.

REMEMBER, this is our main source of funding for, conservation projects, youth activities, our trout hatchery, support of TIC (trout in the Classroom) and other conservation driven activities. WE NEED your support. Invite your neighbor or friends for a great evening of food, fun, and prizes. See you there.

Buffet menu will include 3 entrees and a great desert table. Cash bar, with beer, wine, and liquor. Bring your friends for a fun night with a chance to win some great prizes including a great gun raffle (see below). There will be a bamboo rod in the bucket raffle and a Helios in the rod raffle. You can have a chance at both. There will be verbal art, silent auctions and door prizes galore. If you aren't there we will miss you and you won't win ANYTHING !!!

Once again we will have guest fly tier Dr. Chuck Moxley. Chuck will show you techniques and answer your fly tying questions. Also, we will auction a box of the flies he tied at the end of the banquet.

2016 Spring Banquet Gun Raffle

Again this year the first prize for the chapter's raffle will be a Ruger SR 1911 in .45 ACP. However unlike last year, a second handgun and a 22 rifle will be among the prizes. **Gun Raffle tickets** will enter the ticket holder in drawings for **all** guns listed. Tickets will cost **\$5.00 each** or five for **\$20.00**. Tickets can be purchased at **Shooters' Supply at 9 Short Street, West Middlesex, PA** and from **all chapter officers and directors**. **Also, you can get tickets at Neshannock Creek Fly Shop in Volant, Pa.** Additionally, they can be ordered by mailing a check payable to Trout Unlimited Chapter 216 and sent to 1092 Hadley Drive, Sharon, PA 16146 - include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your ticket stubs sent to you. The complete prize list is below. **Drawing is at the Banquet. YOU do not need to be present to win.**

**Drawing March 19, 2016 -
Tickets \$5 each or \$20 for
five tickets**



1st Ruger SR 1911 .45 ACP



2nd Henry Lever Action 22 LR



3rd Ruger LCP 380

Munnell Run Trout Nursery

Bill Stevenson & Crew

The nursery crew reported that all is well with this year's browns, even with the very dry summer. The water was a consistent temperature for the trout to grow well. Look for some 11+ inch fish this spring. Due to crowding some of the fish will have been "freed" to local waters by this mailing. They should be wary by spring.

For more info on our nursery 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 and to volunteer for stocking the fish. Great idea for the kids to see the fish and be able to understand how they are raised and to see them stocked.

**Hey all Fly Tiers
N. Loprire**

All you fly tiers, if you can, please try to tie a dozen of your favorite patterns and donate to the upcoming spring banquet. Most tiers have some unique or special patterns that will definitely be a hit in our silent auction. WE will provide a box for the flies. we can add to others to help fill the box. We will put a note with each box to recognize the tier/s and any unique patterns. Drop off at the shop in Volant or with any board member.

The Winter Meeting January 30th

Nick Loprire

The weather cooperated and we had 46 people in attendance. No one went hungry, with all the donuts, cookies, cakes and coffee at the start. At lunch, Carol Jochman outdid herself with plenty of meatball, and sausage sandwiches along with pizza, salads, nachos, and I probably forgot something. Special thanks to Carol for all her efforts.

Our speakers were especially informative. We had the **ALLARM** (Lawrence & Mercer for Aquatic Resource Monitoring) group from Westminster College, headed by Professor Helen M. Boylan Ph.D. of the Chemistry dept. Her group of students and volunteers are monitoring water quality of local waters that maybe affected or are near fracking sites in Lawrence and Mercer counties. The information gained, is uploaded to their website www.lawmerallarm.org where it is available for all to access. Two of her students Kelsey Kilbane (Sr. Bio Chemistry) and Christina Mauri (Environmental Science) did an excellent job describing the process of collecting the data for the website. If you want to help, go to the website above for information.

Next, Don Feigert, Outdoor writer for the Herald newspaper, gave a fun and interesting presentation on Wild Trout adventures in the upper Allegheny River area that showed that fishing for wild trout is way more than the act of fishing. While they aren't the biggest fish, they sometimes lead to the biggest adventures. It requires some walking (who couldn't use more of that) but the rewards are many. Some of these adventures are captured in Don's book "F"

Troop. Contact him at the Herald for a copy.

Our final speaker was Bill Anderson, president of the LJRA (Little Juniata River Association). His story about the history and resurgence of a once polluted and nearly dead river was more than interesting, it was inspiring. One man's vision, and determination can make a huge difference. Check out their website at www.littlejuniata.org for more info and how to join. You can also order his book through this website: www.troutboomer.com. It is very entertaining and covers Bill's life and journey to Altoona (headwaters of the J) and how he committed himself to the Little Juniata River.

Bill has many dedicated locals gather each year for a cleanup work party and the first netted 8- 40ft roll off containers heaped with junk. Another interesting fact is the numerous beautiful stone railroad trestles (13?) that crisscross the river from Tyrone to the mouth. They were built in the 1890's and are still handling much train traffic today. The "J" as it is known locally, is one of the best brown trout fisheries in Pa. The "all tackle" section flows from Tyrone 14 or so miles to its confluence with the Frankstown Branch to the Juniata River. Give it a try this year. Get the book and you will be ready.

After the presentation, Bill tied some of his special flies he uses on the J and other streams with success. He calls them his "CET" (Crippled Emerger Transformer). The pattern can go from a dun to a cripple to a spinner and finally an emerger by manipulating the wing. It is unique and I will be prepared when I visit this river. Also, showing off his tying skills, was our NW Regional VP. Mark Hanes. I marvel at the ingenuity of fly tiers. I have tied for 35 yrs., yet I still pick up "tricks" by watching others tie. Mark had some unique materials that made for some special flies. Both Bill and Mark drew a lot of attention from attendees.

April 23rd 2016 Work Day at Coolspring
N. Loprire

Due to a conflict, we will hold our spring cleanup on April 23rd. We will meet in the upper parking lot at 9:00am

and typically are done by around noon. Pizza will be provided at lunch. We have some culverts to replace, debris to pick up, and still some left over tree tops to be cut up and moved from pathways. Mark the date. You will be reminded in the banquet program and of course on our newly updated website www.neshannock-tu.org.

Youth Fishing Day

TU and Grove City Sportsmen

We plan to hold the youth fishing day at the Grounds for the Grove City Sportsmen. The date is June 18th. It is open to kids and handicapped individuals and runs from 9 am to noon with lunch provided by the Grove City Sportsmen. There is a large pond there and it should provide some fun fishing for bluegill, catfish, and bass. There will be lots of prizes and it should be a fun morning. Bring equipment, bait (worms, artificial,). We will help the set up for kids if they need assistance. Don't forget hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen. If you want to help, contact us. Phone numbers of board members are on the website.

February 2016 Trout in the Classroom Up

Date Reg McClelland

Once again the TIC program is in full swing. Once we got all the problems fixed with everyone's equipment, all seems to be going well. This is the kind of program that is run by the students and teachers, we as a TU Chapter are not directly involved with the actual raising of the fish. As the programs progress it's one of those "no news is good news" kind of things. And I haven't heard much news, except a video I received from Jan Abernethy from East Elementary in Greenville showing how well their fish are doing.

You can see this video on our new website at; <http://www.neshannock-tu.org/> under Youth Programs or by following this link; <http://www.neshannock-tu.org/uploads/4/9/2/1/49210775/video.mov>

All other reports that I have gotten at this time have been good with numbers of fish hatching and fish "swimming up" to feed. They have gotten through the dreaded Christmas break. That's when most schools, if they are going to have trouble, is when it happens. Mysterious stories of fish disappearing, strange things happening, starting the break with

300 fish, coming back from break to find only a hand full. It's always an interesting process.

This year our chapter purchased an extra chiller to have on hand in case one of the schools has a problem and loses theirs. The chiller is a very important part of the process. If they lose a chiller it is very difficult to keep the water at a constant cool temperature. Without the chiller it's a lot of messing around with ice and a very difficult procedure to get right. So now, hopefully, if there is a problem, we can have a working chiller in their possession in a couple hours.

PATU provides a grant program to support the classroom needs, and helps to educate the next generation on cold water conservation. The PATU grant program assists teachers in replacing outdated or nonfunctioning equipment, books, field and sampling equipment, as well as funding field trips to engage students in coldwater conservation activities.

This grant program is fully funded through the support of individual contributions. You can help support this program by purchasing a **PA TIC t-shirt or TIC raffle ticket today! Just go to the PATU website at www.patrou.org**

Hurry Up Spring!!

N. Loprire

If you are like me, you can't have spring come soon enough. A chance to get outside without gloves, and super warm gear. Maybe to hike but for me, it is a time to catch fish. I did have one year where (it was a mild winter) I caught a trout in the first 7 months of the year on a dry fly. August was the end, but I replaced that month's dry fly fishing with numerous big bluegill, and bass from my buddy's pond.

Last newsletter, I mentioned checking all your gear and getting ready. I'm sure you all paid attention (RIGHT!!) and are ready to go, but if not, it's time to hustle.

When the Steelhead Rivers flush out the ice and water temps hit 40+ degrees and the flow is falling, it is time to get after them. Late March to late April, spawning will take place and you should look for shallow gravel for steelhead.

If you catch one, immediately release it so it can spawn. Most of the time the eggs are silted over by spring rains but some fish will find small tribbs and successful hatches do occur.

Those chasing walleye can start as soon as ice out, in mid-March. Very Shallow bays with riprap or gravel is where they tend to go. Play the wind. Wind will blow the warmer surface water and plankton in and the minnows will follow and the predator fish will be close behind.

Two or three sunny days in the 50's will get the stoneflies hatching on Neshannock and Coolspring in March to April. Make sure to try a small 16-18 dark stone imitation on top. My experience is that you might see 14-12 stones fluttering around, and if you can't get a rise, switch to an 18 dry. The small stones are more numerous and unless you are in the drift zone, you really can't see them on the water. They are there and that is what I catch the most fish on. Of course, a two fly nymph rig in the head of a run into a deeper run or hole is where you can do well. Small prince nymph and hares ear will do the trick.

Though it may be a warm (50+ degree) day wear your insulated layer under your waders. Remember, the water may only be in the mid 40's and that is cold.

Let's hope we get an earlier start to the fishing season than in the past two years. It appears that may be the case this year. Good luck.

There is no use in your walking 5 miles to fish when you can depend on being just as unsuccessful near home.

Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens, (1875)