What’s Emerging

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

While this is being written at the middle of July, it struck me that this is my last message to you as president of Donegal Trout Unlimited. Our next newsletter will be in October and we will have a new president who will be writing his first president’s message.

So I get to use the president’s prerogative and be a little nostalgic. My wife and I moved here 6 years ago from Connecticut. Knowing very few people, but having an interest in fishing and Trout Unlimited I attended my first DTU meeting at the summer picnic. Fortunately I found the chapter to be very welcoming. Over the ensuing years I have made many friends in the chapter, have fished with many of you, and have always strived to have that welcome out to all members new and old.

The chapter has seen growth in spite of a nationwide trend in seeing fewer people fish. We continue to be very involved with stream improvements in Lancaster County.

We have an active chapter and a board of directors that is very focused on the continuation of our mission to protect and conserve our cold water resources.

So it has indeed been a pleasure to serve as the president of this chapter. I appreciate your welcoming and the confidence you have placed in me. Allow me to share some general observations about fishing in general.

1-If it doesn’t feel right in parking area it is never going to feel right in the stream. Could be a stone in the boot, a loosely tied boot, the feeling you have forgotten something. Best to resolve that nagging feeling right there.

2-Take your kids with you, especially if they are teenagers. They will always talk to you if only to bum bait or a fly.

3- Any fish should count, but in our family the only ones that count are witnessed fish. Yes there is a category of unwitnessed fish but they are just that. They have no real status in tallying up the day.

4- It is great to fish with new people. They become friends.

5- It is great to fish with friends. You learn from each other. I’m reminded of a trip to Penns Creek. I had one reel with me and it was bent at the spool so that it would only take a quarter turn. Thanks to Chuck Elmer’s brother in law, I had a reel to fish with.

6- Get involved. It is good for you, good for the organization, and good for our cold water streams.

In this newsletter you will find reports and information about what we have done the past couple of months. They are interesting and informative. The real point is that they get done by an active core of members.

I want to thank all who have helped make us a success.

GLEN

Robert L. Geibe, 72, of Lititz passed away Thursday, July 10, 2008 at Lancashire Hall. Born in Lancaster Co., he was the son of the late George and Pauline Geibe. He was the husband of Barbara Geibe. Robert was employed by Wilbur Chocolate for 40 years before his retirement in 1998. He was an avid outdoorsman. Robert enjoyed grouse hunting. He was an accomplished taxidermist and mounted his own grouse. He also enjoyed fly fishing which the latter was his passion and teaching children the art of fly fishing. Robert and Barbara’s favorite get away was Millersburg, PA where they enjoyed riding the ferry together, hiking to the winery, and fishing in the Wiconisco Creek and Susquehanna River. Robert and Barbara also presented fly tying shows up state and in and around the local nursing homes. He was a member of the Isaac Walton League, Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, and the Donegal Chapter Trout Unlimited. Robert also attended Coleman Memorial Chapel. Surviving in addition to his wife Barbara, is a daughter, Bobbi Jo Maxwell of Mountville. A sister, Sandy Stone of Elizabethtown. A grandson, Noel Dupler of Marietta. 3 step-children.3 great grandchildren. 3 nephews and several nieces, aunts, and uncles.

Bob Geibe

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CONSULTS

What’s Emerging… 1
Bob Geibe…………………1
Chapter Planner… 2
Committee Reports 3
Special Olympics… 6
Ten Prizes……………….7
Reel Life……………….7
Youth Camp………8
Chapter Planner

**AUGUST**
- 13th: 7 pm  Board Meeting  Millport Conservancy
- 20th: 6 pm  Chapter Meeting  Bachmann Residence

**SEPTEMBER**
- 10th: 7 pm  Board Meeting  Millport Conservancy
- 17th: 5:30 pm  Chapter Meeting  Guthrie Residence

**OCTOBER**
- 8th: 7 pm  Board Meeting  Millport Conservancy
- 15th: 6 pm  Chapter Meeting  Four Seasons Golf Club

“Picnic”
“Phil Gay Casting Instruction”

Small Enough to Make You Smile

Caught on Lititz Run in the Millport Conservancy stretch. Caught its twin a few minutes later. That’s a wild rainbow, folks!

MM

Fish & Golf Tournament Photos Courtesy Bob Wyble

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P

ROGRAMS

AUGUST

August 20, 2008 at 6:00 PM
We will be at Bob Bachman’s home at Blue Lake in Rheamstown, PA.
Bob has again graciously invited DTU to picnic on his lawn by the lake. Bring your fishing outfit and fish the lake for some fat sunfish and bass. Come join us for food and drinks. Meet new and old friends for a great night at this beautiful location. Directions will be on the website and see below.
By the way, Bob is a PFBC Commissioner.
Directions to Bob’s place are as follows. From Lancaster take US 222 North to the PA Turnpike exit. Turn left on Spur Road and then right on PA Rt. 272 (North) to PA 897. Turn left onto PA 897 and take it (North) through Reinholds to Blue Lake Road at the Mennonite Meeting House. Turn left onto Blue Lake Road and go to the end at the intersection with Peartown Road. Turn left and you’re there.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 17, 2008 at 5:30 PM or as soon as you can get there.
Home of Russ Guthrie
1101 Central Manor Road
Lancaster, PA 17603
3 miles out of Millersville on 999, turn left at “The Mart” onto Central Manor Road. Towards Safe Harbor. Go one mile and home is on the left at 1101 mail box #. Signs for parking will be at this location.
Topic - Live Casting Lessons
Presenter - Phil Gay, Trout & About, Monkton, MD
Bring your fly rod outfit and Phil will work with you one on one. WOW — what an offer from Phil. A special thanks to member Faye Haering for talking Phil into this great idea. We will be on the banks of the West Branch of the Little Conestoga (stocked waters) in Russ’s front yard, 3 1/2 acres grass and riparian buffers. This is also the site of a DTU/PFBC stream improvement project just completed May 15, 2008. Come and see the latest in PFBC design at work in our County.
Trout & About is a fly fishing instruction, guiding and destination company providing high quality fly fishing services. They offer fly fishing classes and schools, local and out of area guiding on select rivers, and destination trips to select locations.
Trout & About was established over twelve years ago by Phil Gay and Carol Stevenson. Phil is a retired Naval Officer who has been fly fishing since he was ten years old, and Carol has been an avid fly fisherman for about twenty years.
Phil Gay is a Federation of Fly Fishers Master certified instructor. Phil has also produced two instructional videos titled “Practical Fly Casting” and “Presentation Casts for Trout”. He will be in the stream this year for his sessions with us because of the work DTU did on this section of stream last winter. Don't miss it!
http://www.troutandabout.com/

RUSST GUTHRIE - PROGRAMS

FISH & GOLF TOURNAMENT
The Third Annual Donegal TU Fish and Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, June 12, 2008. We had 11 teams (22 players). The weather was beautiful and by all accounts everyone had a good time fishing and golfing (so by those standards the tournament was a success). We also raised a little over $200 for Donegal TU. For some, the fishing was very good. The team of Dan Brandt & Kevin Fausey took the honors again for the most fish caught with 8 fish apiece. Jim Stephens also caught 8 fish. There was a tie for the largest fish caught with Dan Brandt's 19'' catfish and Jim Stephens's 19'' largemouth bass sharing the honors. The low gross and net golf score went to the team of Jim Englert and Craig Zercher, with a net score of 68. Second place went to the team of Mike Addams and Gene Hilton, with a net score of 74.
A special thanks to Chip Kappesser, golf pro at Fox Chase Golf Club, for his time and expertise in making this tournament possible. Also, thanks to all who participated. We hope you return next year and spread the word and bring some golf/fishing buddies. Watch for information about next year’s tournament on our website and in the January/February, 2009 chapter newsletter.
Continued, page 5
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Millport Conservancy

- Receptions
- Seminars
- Corporate retreats
  can be held in the Mill at Millport Conservancy.
- Asram, Heron,
  White-tail and Millstone memberships accepted.
Call for information.

Lynn W. Myers, Executive Director
737 East Millport Road, Lititz, PA 17543
Phone: 717-626-0414 Fax: 717-626-4572

Concerned about your reaction or a loved one’s to insect sting allergy?

Write for FREE information, published by the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology.
Send stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Insect Sting Allergy

c/o Allergy and Asthma
Foundation of Lancaster County
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Rohrerstown, PA 17603

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Committee Reports, continued

May your fish be many and your strokes few!

Dave Chalfant,
Tournament Chairman

Conservation

Getting Started on Conowingo Creek Watershed

Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited has received $129,487.00 to repair five of the one hundred twenty-six sites within the watershed. The money came from a Federal 319 Grant.

Rettew Associates did a complete stream survey a few years ago and will now design the five projects. D.T.U. will partner with Rettew Associates and willing landowners to help complete the work.

The upper tributaries of the stream are designated by the fish commission as “Class A Wild Trout.” The watershed drains southern Lancaster County and eventually flows into the Susquehanna River in Maryland. The plan is to reduce sediment and nutrient loads throughout the watershed as well as improve riparian and fish habitat.

The surveying and design should be finished this year with construction to start in early 2009.

Donegal Creek Project Earns “Adopt a Stream” Grant

Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited has partnered with the Donegal Fish and Game Association and The Fish and Boat Commission to enhance a nine hundred foot stretch of stream on the Lester Hurch farm. This site is located just downstream from the Donegal Presbyterian Church.

The stream had been worked on approximately fifteen years ago but now needs some improvements. The Fish and Boat Commission has designed twenty-five stream and fish habitat devices which will narrow the stream while putting back some natural stream meandering. Devices such as log and stone deflectors, root wads and upstream vanes should do the job. The new structures will speed up water flow, increase the fish holding capacity and improve spawning habitat in this area.

The Grant will provide $2,000.00 per year for three years to purchase materials such as rocks and logs. D. T. U. will cover any additional expenses.

Look for notices on the web site for our starting times and call for volunteers. We will have to wait for the ground to dry out before starting, probably in the Fall.

Bob Kutz
Conservation Chairman
The 2008 Special Olympics fishing day was held at Dr. Hugh Wenger’s pond near Elizabethtown, PA. This yearly event is co-sponsored by Donegal TU, Lancaster County Special Olympics and the PA Fish & Boat Commission. More than 20 Olympians came to the event along with their parents and a host of volunteers from DTU. Faye Haering, Russ Guthrie and Ray Myers did a superb job of organizing the event and everything went off without one problem!

The fishing was great and all participants caught fish. Bluegills, bass and channel catfish were caught using meal worms, earth worms and hot dogs for bait. The largest fish caught was a 22” channel catfish but some fish that broke off before they could be landed were probably larger than that.

The volunteers and participants started showing up at 8:00 am and by 9:00 am were down at the pond where Bob Lyons and Mike Skurecki from the PA Fish and Boat commission presented a wonderful program showing our athletes models and charts of various fish species along with instruction on water safety. Russ Guthrie and Bob Albright supplied ATV’s and three golf carts were rented to transport participants to and from the pond. The PAF&BC provided rods and reels to anyone in need. After the opening ceremonies and a presentation by the Fish Commission the fishing began. Every fisherperson had a volunteer to help with baiting hooks and unhooking fish. All fish were returned to the water.

At 12 noon, everyone walked to the picnic area for sandwiches and drinks. After lunch, awards were presented and pictures taken. The Olympians and volunteers all had a wonderful time. Following is a list of award winners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Ribbon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biggest Fish</td>
<td>Neil Miller</td>
<td>22 ½ inch catfish</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Fish</td>
<td>Kaitlin Good</td>
<td>1 fish</td>
<td>Pink Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Fish</td>
<td>Sarah Miller</td>
<td>20 fish</td>
<td>Red Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biggest Bass</td>
<td>Tommy Levonsky</td>
<td>13 inch bass</td>
<td>Red Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biggest Bluegill bass</td>
<td>Jeff Meyers &amp; Westin Wagner tied</td>
<td>8 ½ inch</td>
<td>Red Ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallest Fish</td>
<td>4 way tie: Alejo Bair, Mark Medora, Sam Young, Marty Zeamer</td>
<td>4 inch sunfish or bluegill</td>
<td>Green Ribbons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Category</td>
<td>Turtles Neil Miller &amp; Westin Wagner each caught 1</td>
<td>Cranberry Ribbon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Framed certificates of “Above and Beyond” awards were presented to Faye Haering and Russ Guthrie for coordinating DTU’s part, to Bob Lyons and Mike Skurecki for sharing their wonderful knowledge of fishing and for supplying the fishing equipment, and to the volunteers from Ranck’s UMC for their assistance.

Volunteers included 2 members of Ranck’s United Methodist Church, New Holland, some parents of participants, and 26 volunteers from DTU. Our hoagie lunches with snack packs and drinks were prepared by Lighthouse Vocational Services, New Holland.
When I first joined DTU, I wondered if the chapter might be more aptly named Donegal & Montana TU, so frequently did it seem many of our members visited Big Sky Country. In reality I expect at least a handful of us have yet to enjoy that experience. Happily I no longer count myself among that number.

In mid-June, my good friend from England, my wife & I made the long drive and spent a week fishing the waters in and around Yellowstone NP. In the best of circumstances that was a bit earlier than ideal, but unfortunately “real life” must be taken into account from time to time. But after years of drought and poor snow pack, the winter of ’07-’08 brought a bumper crop of white stuff. Well before we left, we knew that extra runoff would limit the waters we might fish.

Now at this point the typical narrative tells you how we spent days floating the Henry’s Fork or the Madison and the guides put us on to shedloads of fish. This isn’t the typical narrative. Our budget and situation didn’t allow for float trips (you can’t fit 3 “clients” into a typical driftboat) and we’re all wading fishermen by inclination anyway. As to guides, they’re not cheap, and while I’m certain they can help you learn new water faster than you could yourself, there’s something about being told what fly to tie on, where to cast it and how to play the fish, much less net it, that grates against my character. I’m stubborn enough to want to catch my own trout, and lucky enough to do it most of the time. So we did it ourselves.

The staff at the local fly shops were more than friendly and willingly directed us to stretches that were fishing well. We fished the Firehole, Madison, Gibbon and Henry’s Fork and took trout on every one. We prospected likely water, figured out what they were feeding on, found a pattern that would take, and caught trout. Perhaps not shedloads, but enough to make each day feel like a success.

No, none were monsters suitable to feature on the “grip & grin” cover of your favorite FF mag, but some respectable fish nevertheless.

Most importantly, we had a blast. We did it on our own, on a budget, and are conniving how and when to return and maybe catch our first shedload.

Mark McMaster

Ten Prizes
...Ten Days
......Ten Dollars

Help support our ongoing stream improvement projects. Donegal TU is currently offering a raffle ticket with TEN PRIZES! Prizes will be given out starting October 16 for TEN DAYS in a row! Cost per ticket is just TEN DOLLARS!

Prizes include two rifles, two shotguns, two fly rod/reel combos, kayak, canoe, gas grill and a $500.00 Bass Pro Gift Card — WOW!

Tickets are available for purchase immediately. You can get tickets at the monthly chapter meetings and DTU events now through the Octoberfest meeting. You can also contact Bob Albright to order tickets directly @ 717-468-4215. Please support DTU by purchasing some tickets today.

Bob Albright
My Rivers Conservation &
Fly Fishing Youth Camp Experience

This summer I attended the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, and wow was it an experience. There were so many interesting classes and activities to learn from. There was everything from Wetland Repairs to Rod Building.

Before I came to the Fly Fishing Rivers Camp I knew very little about the risks we are committing by polluting the streams. Not only is it unethical, but also it is killing trout and ruining our streams. The camp provides a plethora of information and knowledge we can do to help the situation. The outdoor activities the camp provided, like fly casting, stream habitat work, collecting aquatic invertebrates, electro-shock fishing, and many other activities were an incredible experience.

My three favorite camp activities were fly tying, electro fishing, and fly fishing. I had never tied a fly before in my life until I went to this astonishing camp. The camp provided all of the campers who did not have their own fly tying materials with a vice, hackle, thread, hooks, etc. I became so interested in tying flies; I went home and bought myself a fly tying kit.

Electro fishing was an experience of a lifetime. To witness this was incredible. Electro shock is when a few people walk around in the stream with a metal loop the size of a basketball. The fish are attracted to the electrical current the metal loop makes. When a fish is in range of the electrical current it is shocked and looks like it is dead. The men performing the electro shock pick them up and examine the type of fish they are; this way they know the diversity of fish in the stream.

Two times a day the campers go fishing; once in the morning and once at night. We fish a total of five hours a day. The Yellow Breeches, the stream we fish on, is a stunning stream. It is filled with beautiful trout. I even caught two Palominos over the course of six days. The activities the camp provided were unbelievable. I would like to thank Donegal T.U. for proving me with a scholarship to the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. They were the ones who gave me the chance for an experience of a lifetime. I would recommend the camp to anyone between the ages of fourteen to eighteen. I hope Donegal T.U. will continue to support and sponsor individuals who have the desire and passion for stream conservation.

Thank you for the experience.

Evan Smiga