

Mayflyer

November 2005

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The Monthly Publication of



Next
Monthly
Meeting

BACKCASTS

September Chapter Meeting

by Glen Nephin

Our speaker for the September meeting was David Wise of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. David is also a member of our chapter. The mission of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. In PA, protecting and improving the health of local water resources is the place to start. Forested buffers play a critical role in channel stability, water quality, and wildlife habitat. While grassy buffers bring improvement, adding woody vegetation takes grassy vegetation to the next level. These buffer zones improve channel stability and provide protection through woody root systems and reduced peak flows. Toxins bound by organics improve with leaf litter in the stream. Additional nutrient processing improves habitat for many terrestrials species as well.

New information from the Stroud Water Research Center in Chester County compared the function in woody versus grassy buffered sections in the same stream. The study focused on 16 streams in Southeast PA. The forested buffered streams provided better habitat than the grassy areas. Nitrogen uptake was two to nine times higher in the forested sections. Phosphorous uptake showed an increase in both stream types but was not statistically different. Fish biomass showed no significant difference but stream metabolism was up to five times greater in forested buffer areas.

The loss of stream processes from deforestation is the single biggest impact on PA streams. In terms of environmental services for streams, this is the equivalent of losing half of all our streams. If forested levels are

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the trout streams and
watersheds of
Lancaster County

Wednesday
November 16th
7 PM

Quality Inn
Lancaster

Program
Artic Grayling
in Alaska
by
Fred Bridge

Upcoming
Chapter
Activities

Fly Tying

Featuring
Ed Kraft
and
Bob Geibe

Wednesday
December 21st
7:00 PM

Quality Inn
Lancaster

restored, Stroud estimates pollutant levels would be cut in half.

Because of the agricultural practices here in Lancaster County we face challenges. DTU and watershed associations in the county have worked to restore buffered areas where possible. We continue to push at those areas where we have no had success in the past. CBF's primary focus is buffer installations. This includes livestock exclusion from streams through fencing; installing stabilized livestock crossings when needed; and planting a mixture of native trees and shrubs including a variety of containerized stock. Just recently DTU provided 500 containerized plants to the Bachman Run Watershed.

Once the buffers are installed, the landowners manage the area by fence maintenance and control of noxious weeds such as multiflora rose. For the farmer there are a number of advantages including fewer injuries from steep banks. Upstream improvements improve the quality of drinking water for livestock. The animals are cleaner and healthier with fewer mastitis problems.

We see improved fish and wildlife habitat as a result of improved water quality. Sediments, pesticides and bacteria are also reduced. The CBF and government agencies such as the USDA, CREP, and the DEP Stream Bank Fencing program are additional sources for our community. While the Chesapeake is not within our boundaries, it feels the impact of what we do within its watershed. The Bay will improve as a result of the positive steps we take.



WHAT'S EMERGING!

President's Report: by Bob Wyble

Donegal TU is a volunteer organization with 500 plus members. We have accomplished a lot of things in Lancaster County over the last 10 years with improvements on Lititz Run, Shearer's Creek and now work is in the early stages for improvements on the Conowingo Creek. As in most volunteer organizations the bulk of the work is carried on by a handful of dedicated volunteers who show up for work projects.

About three years ago we organized a number of committees to encourage more chapter members to become involved in projects. Several members did become more involved as a result of that effort and several new members have joined the board of directors. However, we could accomplish so much more if even more members pitched in to help improve cold-water streams in Lancaster County. How can we get more members involved? That's the \$64,000 question!

For starters, regular chapter members could join the board of directors at the monthly board meetings to learn about what is going on in the chapter. Decisions about new projects, what projects to work on, newsletter changes, web page design, education programs, etc. are discussed at board meetings. I would like to extend an open invitation to all DTU members to come and sit in on board meetings. The board needs to hear your ideas about what chapter activities we should be planning. For example, we have an excellent newsletter but we need to hear your ideas about changes we could make to have an even better newsletter. Gary Roulston does an excellent job as editor but Gary needs help to publish the newsletter. We need to hear your ideas on how we could improve communication with the public and how we could improve our educational programs?

Another issue we need to think about is how to get younger people interested and involved in our chapter and our board. Many of our board members are getting older. What could we do to encourage younger men and women to become involved so they will pick up the torch and carry on the vision of Donegal TU.

I would like to encourage DTU members to come out to a board meeting and listen to the discussion. Members are welcome to express a

comment or just listen. The more informed you are the better you will be able to support our chapter initiatives.

The board meets the second Wednesday of every month at Millport Conservancy. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Come join us and give us your ideas about what we can do to be a better chapter.

In other chapter news, we have been receiving numerous reports of anglers catching juvenile brown trout in Lititz Run. Has Lititz run recovered from the degradation prior to 1990 to the point that wild trout can now live in Lititz Run? The board of directors decided it is time to conduct an experiment and see if a wild population of brown trout can become established.

This coming spring volunteers will clip the adipose fin from 2"- 4" brown trout and release them in a section of Lititz Run. These fingerlings will come from a hatchery where they have been fed on a daily basis. After they are released they will be on their own to find food and avoid predators. We will not feed the fish and fishing will not be permitted in this section for two years. At the end of the first and second year we will shock this section of Lititz run to take a count and see how many fish survived. If our experiment shows that a significant number of fish with clipped fins have survived for two years we can then make plans for other stream improvements such as setting up gravel trays for spawning beds.

We are very excited about the possible outcomes of this experiment. If we can take one degraded cold-water stream and bring it back to the point that it can sustain a population of wild trout think about the possibilities for other streams.

I think it's very exciting that Lititz Run could be a model for establishing populations of wild trout in other streams in Pennsylvania. I am proud to be a part of a chapter that is willing to do some experimental work to encourage restoration of wild trout. We will keep you posted as we continue with this experiment.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS



November's Program

Chairman: Ted Downs

November's program will be held at the **Quality Inn on Wednesday 11/16 at 7 PM** It will be on fishing for Arctic Grayling in Dillingham, Alaska, entitled "Fishing from Bear Claw Lodge" by Fred Bridge. December's program will be a demonstration of fly tying featuring our own Chapter's legends on the subject Ed Kraft and Bob Geibe.

Tree Nursery Committee

Chairman: Kevin Fausey

As I write this report the sound of steady rain is working its way through my open window. I missed that sound this summer, and as I reflect back, a number of typical summer events, feelings and sights, were missing also. Playing with my dog on a lush green lawn. The cool refreshing feeling of wading into a deep hole in the Susquehanna River. Relaxing on the front porch during a summer evening rain. Abundant and flourishing vegetation. Maybe it's just me but I welcome this rain as it rejuvenates both nature and me this fall. Oh yes, back to the tree nursery report.

Fall is the time for planting. Any organization or individual dedicated to preserving protecting, and restoring the environment and in need of plant materials to do so, please get in touch with me and I'll get you hooked up with plants. We want these plants in the ground !!!

The nursery still has a good supply of plants available although they are moving out quickly. I'm working with David Wise of the CBF and a landowner on Furnace and Segloch Runs right now for plant installation on October 14th. Jeremy Freymoyer of the Hamburg area, an acquaintance of VP Jim Stevens, was looking to create a 6.4 acre riparian buffer along several unnamed tributaries of Mill Creek. Mill Creek drains the south side of the Blue Mountains west of the Schuylkill. It seems that no one in that area has a nursery setup like DTU to help him out. We met at the nursery, discussed his needs and how we operate. He now can take this information and some trees back with him to Hamburg, share it with willing organizations and hopefully start up a nursery in his area. As for the trees, all 101 of them are in the ground, with still more room to plant.

Emily Kauffman, Land Steward for the Lancaster County Conservancy, has set aside approximately 80 plants for tree planting on November 12th at Homewood Nature Preserve. The Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance, with help from Rettew Associates, Schroader Gardens and local volunteers installed approximately 500 of DTU's plants as a riparian buffer along a restored section of Bachman Run in Manheim Township.

The Tree nursery has a purpose and it is working. I want to reduce the overall size and quantity of plants we are holding in the nursery at Millport Conservancy. It will be easier to manage throughout the year. but at the same time, still maintain the quality and quantity of plants that are needed by the organizations and individuals as stated earlier. If you are looking to get involved with DTU, we have a place and purpose for you at our tree nursery.

Conservation Committee

Chairman: Greg Wilson

Finally we've gotten to the end of this drastically long summer drought! What I am most impressed with on Lititz Run is how good the stream looks just 24 hours after a 7 inch rainfall. The water is reasonably clear and it flushed out a lot of the sediment that had been building up during the low water conditions.

It has been just about one year since the Wetland Farm restoration project took place. It is absolutely amazing to think of the change that has taken place. Last fall we were slogging through the mud or in some cases (Joe & Bob) sinking into the mud while seeding the project. Now you can hardly see that it was ever disturbed. I think the dry conditions were actually a benefit to this project, allowing the vegetation to fill in. It is interesting to see all of the different plant species that are filling in. There are a large variety of wetland species present that weren't planted.

Next year under the advisement of Bob Bachman we are going to do an experiment to determine the viability of establishing a wild trout fishery. DTU will purchase 1,500 fingerlings. We will clip the adipose fin for future identification, and then introduce them into the section of stream at Wetland Farms. We will monitor the survival rate over a few years, and hopefully see some in-stream reproduction. Most conditions appear favorable and there is a good chance of success. Despite this recent extended drought, the in-stream temperatures were moderate enough for trout to survive and thrive.

Dee Lehman has been moving the Conowingo watershed assessment along as well. We have secured permission from all the required landowners to assess several sections of stream and do some electro-shocking to examine the existing wild trout populations. With a little luck we'll be pleasantly surprised at the results. As we were securing permission from the landowners, we met a lot of great people that seem to have a great concern for the watershed. Hopefully as the assessment information gets out, along with the public meetings that will be held, we will generate enough interest among the locals to establish a local watershed group with support from DTU.

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Fly Of The Month

“Flame Thrower”

Submitted by October Mt. Guide Service
(Marc Procopio)
from www.flyfisherman.com



Description

Flame Thrower was designed as a Steelhead fly for fishing on overcast days. Also, this color combo has been deadly for all species of fresh water Salmonids. When using the Chuck & Duck method for Steelhead Pull on the line about a foot when its in the center of the channel and let it drop back. Then hold on for Dear Life!!!

Recipe:

- HOOK:** # 4-6 TMC, 700 or similar.
- THREAD:** Fluorescent pink, orange, or red.
- TAIL:** Blood red marabou overlaid with copper Krystal Flash.
- BODY:** Fluorescent fire orange med. Chenille
- HACKLE:** Hot orange schllappen.
- FACE:** Yellow saddle hackle.

Tying Instructions

Pad the hook and tie in Red Marabou tail. Then overlay the Copper Crystal flash. With the thread above the hook point, tie in the Med. Chenille, then the Hot Orange Schllappen by the tip! Wrap the chenille forward to the eye following the thread.(Make sure you take one turn of chenille behind the body hackle). Wrap the Hot orange body hackle forward through the chenille segments. Wrap a face of Yellow Saddle (3 turns) and Whip Finish.

Montana Dreaming (Part 1):

by Glen Nephin

Montana was always my Mecca for fishing, but somehow work kept getting in the way. To get around that I retired and started the best job I ever had. I had one dream of fishing Montana and another dream of driving across the country. Combining them would get me both dreams.

I had the good fortune of joining Camp 6X in Fort Smith, Montana. I bought in sight unseen. Bob Kutz may not have sold the Brooklyn Bridge yet, but he is close with two potential buyers.

My carefully planned agenda had me leaving Lititz on August 22nd last year, driving to Montana, and spending a couple of days fishing the Bighorn with the folks at Camp 6X. Bob Kutz was to fly there on September 7th. My wife would fly into Billings later that day. We would spend two nights at Camp 6X. Then we would begin the trek back home, visiting along the way Yellowstone, the north rim of the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Sedona, and Scottsdale. We would mooch a couple of nights with friends in Tucson.

No fishing on this leg of the trip. Time is the great leveler. If I were to fish every place I wanted to on this trip I'd still be in the car. I would be gone 40 days and nights as it was. I made reservations to fish the San Juan after stays in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. After that it was on the way to Pittsburgh for some family time.

Prior to the trip, my favorite daughter-in-law, (well, my only daughter-in-law) made my day by telling me she couldn't believe how organized I was. Maps, itinerary, reservation confirmation numbers, phone lists, flies, stamps, waders, rods, reels, vest, wading staff, sun screen, affinity cards, water, snacks, book on fly fishing in Montana, new car, etc. The only things I would need would be gas, meals and a couple of hotels on the way out.

So why was it that I was sitting in my car at the rest area near Pittsburgh on August 22nd? That's an excellent question, with an answer that unfortunately has become an instant family legend. As I pulled off for gas and a trip to the head I reached for my wallet and it wasn't there. Nor was it any place in the car. It was back home in Lititz on top of my stand - exactly where I place it every time so I won't forget it.

No money on me or in the car so I couldn't get off the Turnpike. I couldn't reach my wife on the cell phone either. So I sat in the car working the crossword in between calls to my wife. Finally a BMW pulled in. The driver got out and gave me the standard nod saying, "How you doing?" I could have given the pat answer of, "Good" or I could tell the truth. I chose the truth and told my sad tale of woe. He gave me \$20 and would not give me his name. He said he was glad to help and that he was sure I would do it for someone. I rely on the kindness of strangers (and my wife).

With that I had money for tolls and gas. I finally reached my wife. No need to recount that conversation. We met at Sideling Hill, the rest area after the tunnels. It's the one accessible to both east and west travel. By now it was 3 PM and I had many miles to go. After driving across half the continent, where about the only interesting sight from the interstate were the miles and miles of blooming sunflowers in South Dakota, I got off at Belle Fourche, SD. I had my third Subway lunch in as many days and got onto Rt. 212. This runs diagonally across the rest of South Dakota and the eastern part of Montana. It would put me about 75 miles from Camp 6X. In an hour, I never saw another car on this road.

Finally I'm into Montana. It doesn't look any different than South Dakota. I pass through Indian Reservations. The road ends at Crow Agency, where the Custer National Battlefield is located. My wife and I would return here for a tour later. Hardin is the next stop. The Dairy Queen is a mandatory stop, a camp ritual. I get some groceries and I'm on the way. The directions say just after mile post 38 is a shared driveway of the camp and a ranch. After 10 minutes of looking for it, I find the camp driveway at mile marker 39.

Home On The Range

My first look is a substantial cabin on a rise overlooking the road. Inside, it's comfortable and welcoming. The kitchen has two stoves and refrigerators and a dishwasher. All bedrooms downstairs have three bunks and a separate bathroom. Upstairs has one bathroom for three bedrooms, two of which sleep two. There is a fire place and a satellite TV. There are five others at the camp when I arrive there including Bill Billet and Don Rietscha. Fort Smith is the nearest town. It consists of about a half-dozen fly shops, a small general store with exorbitant gas prices and seemingly as many drift boats as cars. There are a few lodges between the cabin and Fort Smith. The Crow Indian reservation is dry. Alcohol and sex are the same here; if you want any, bring your own. The area is dry in other respects. The hills are brown all around us. We are at about 3,800 feet of elevation. Most of the crops and grasses have turned brown this time of year. This is cattle country and except for the state numbered roads when you pass into and through the reservation, it is open range. There is only one reason to be here; to fish the Bighorn. The next morning we stop at the Bighorn Trout Shop for flies. Of course, the ones I stocked up on just don't work out here. Open wallet and insert flies.

(to be continued...)

A Taste of Fishing in Ireland

by Deirdre “Fishingmaniac” Lehman

My fly fishing goals are simple...fish in as many beautiful places as possible and continue to introduce myself to new species and techniques for catching them. I can usually meet those goals, except for one...the catching doesn't always happen. But if I meet the rest, I'm usually still a happy camper.

In September of 2005, my husband and I took an adventure for the celebration of our 20th anniversary. Not to be too shy about anything, we decided to take a cruise, our very first, across the Atlantic! We flew to London and sampled the countryside for a few days before embarking on a cruise that would take us from the white cliffs of Dover, to various European ports in Holland, France, Belgium Ireland and Nova Scotia before pulling into New York harbor. Out of the twelve nights aboard the Celebrity Constellation, my husband couldn't squawk about one day of fishing, now could he?

I was able to book a day trip with The Blackwater Lodge in Upper Ballyduff, County Waterford, on the east coast of Ireland for a try at Atlantic Salmon. September is usually their best Atlantic Salmon month, but water levels turned out to be low and not many fresh fish had come in...as usual, timing being everything, I was about 4 days late for a big run of fish. My guide was John Woodside, an Ex-Royal Navy meteorologist and expert spey caster. He picked me up at the docks in Cobh and we drove about 35 minutes to the lodge where I got my waders, and then drove to the beat I would be fishing. The countryside of Ireland is so beautiful and I quickly realized why they call it the Emerald Isle... everything is so green! The Blackwater River is a dark tannic river, very easily waded and not as large as I imagined. John handed me a rod and it was long! Though not a spey rod, it had to be at least 12 feet long with a very soft tip. We rigged up using treble hook shrimp flies...very interesting. I cast and stepped downriver...hoping to catch a salmon. I did see one jump that looked a bit dark or “colored up”...those are thrown back to spawn .



John informed me that like here, there are fisheries management issues in Ireland, primarily concerning gill netters. The regulations in place are just not enforced...the netters take 9,000 fish a month rather than the 9,000 fish per season they are allowed.

Two other blokes were fishing on our beat with another guide from the Blackwater using spinning gear. One of them, we saw, caught two colored up salmon and his friend (and I) got skunked.

But John showed me some neat spey moves (that I wouldn't be able to master on that trip) and was a great character to hang out with. And although he missed the exit we needed to get back to the ship (he corrected himself later), I managed to get back to the ship with 15 minutes to spare. It would have been a frightful proposition to miss the ship as the next place the ship would be was Halifax, Nova Scotia, 4 days hence! That definitely got my heart racing. Still, it was a great experience!



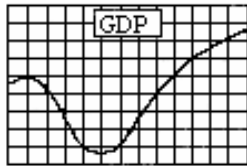
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Thank you, DTU,
for your continued
support and volunteers!

WHAT'S NEW AT:

Donegal TU

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY:

by Faye Haering

The fifth annual Lancaster County Special Olympic Fishing Derby was held at Speedwell Forge Lake in Elm, PA on August 13, 2005. Donegal TU, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission sponsored the event. As everything in life is timing, the audience was treated by a rare appearance of a majestic Bald Eagle that swooped down in front of us and captured a large fish in it's talons. We all knew it was a good omen for special Olympic athletes to catch some fish.

Approximately nineteen athletes participated in the fishing competition; some new to the sport. A casting competition was included in the program to give the athlete's yet another opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.

Following the events, a most tasty lunch was prepared for all participants, which provided a brief respite from a hot, humid day. Awards were presented to the athlete's for numerous categories such as; most fish, largest fish, smallest fish, etc. as well as for the winners of the casting competition. All Athletes' present received an award for their participation both by the Olympic Committee and by DTU.

Thanks to **Dave Chalfant**, (Chairman of Education Committee) whose leadership and organizational skills made it possible for this event to run smoothly and successfully. A thank you is also in order for **Dr. Joe Besecker** who originated the idea of giving the athletes ribbons for awards. The award ribbons in bright colors of blue, yellow, red, etc. with a picture of a trout in the center were a big hit.

A special thank you needs to be given to **Ray & Sharon Myers, Family Coordinators for Special Olympics**, **Libby Garner** of the PA Fish & Boat Commission and all **volunteers** for their expertise, time and efforts to make this a good experience for all the athletes.

This was definitely a team effort with all parties involved, each contributing to the satisfaction of a job well done. I'm sure all would agree that this is

one of the most rewarding and appreciated efforts that our chapter members donate their time and energy to.

Last, but certainly not least were all of the sixteen TU volunteers who generously interrupted their Saturday to assist with this worthwhile effort including: President **Bob Wyble, Dave Chalfant, Dr. Joe Besecker, Ron Miller, Ed Kraft, Bill Middleton, Dr. Hugh Wenger, Dee Lehman, Tim & Nancy Suloff, Jim Stephens, Kevin Fausey, Chuck Elmer, Wayne Boggs & Liz Kleinman**. I apologize if I missed anyone, or misspelled their name, as I did this from memory because the Olympic Committee needed the list for their records. GREAT TURNOUT! GREAT JOB!



3 Month Chapter Planner

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| <u>Month</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Date & Time</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Subject</u> |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| November | Board Meeting | Wed. 11/9-7:00 PM | Millport Conservancy | Normal Meeting |
| | Chapter Meeting | Wed. 11/16-7:00 PM | Quality Inn & Suites | “Arctic Grayling in Alaska” by Fred Bridge |
| December | Board Meeting | Wed. 12/14-7:00 PM | Millport Conservancy | Normal Meeting |
| | Chapter Meeting | Wed. 12/21-6:00 PM | Quality Inn & Suites | “Fly Tying” Ed Kraft & Bob Geibe |
| January | Board Meeting | Wed. 1/11-7:00 PM | Millport Conservancy | Normal Meeting |
| | Chapter Meeting & Elections | Wed. 1/18-7:00 PM | Quality Inn & Suites | “Feathered Hook B&B” by Jonas Price |

Salmon Fishing

(Continued from page 8)



watched in amazement as Scott saved the choking man. The restaurant was full with everyone watching and when the man could finally talk and thank Scott the room erupted into applause. There is no question that Scott’s fast action saved the man’s life and gave him a chance to fish another day.

I wish we were able to maintain a count of all the hookups and landings but we had such good fishing that we actually lost count.

This was the best Salmon River trip any of us ever experienced. The day we left it was just starting to rain and the river flow was scheduled to double for the next several days and it would be unfishable. We were lucky and hit some perfect days for weather and water flow.

For those thinking about making this trip please corner any one of us for more details and fish stories.





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Mayflyer

Salmon Fishing by Ted Downs

Pulaski, NY is the Salmon Capital of the world. So when Chinook and Coho Salmon make their fall spawning run many DTU members from Lancaster County travel there to take advantage of it. This year Wayne Boggs, Scott Trefny, Bud Hyndman and I once again made the 5½ hour drive north on Rt.81 from Lancaster. Gary Roulston and Bob Kutz had also planned to make this year's trip but had unfortunately had to cancel due to work considerations. There are many places to stay in Pulaski but you must make reservations early, often a year or more in advance, to be assured of lodging.

When we arrived this year we found the water flow from the dam was going to be 750 cfs. for the entire week. While that's, very fishable, use of a wading staff is still a necessity. There are deep holes and the current is very strong at that rate of flow.

The weather turned out to be beautiful and on the first day we fished the Upper Fly stretch near Altmar. I was amazed that I landed the first Salmon I hooked, especially since last year I was unable to land any fish,

although I had hooked into many. We all had a very good day and were very pleased with our catch.

The next day we got up early and were on the stream well before daylight. We had a ball with everyone landing fish and having great fishing. At one particular spot Wayne had 18 hookups without managing to get a fish to shore. That's not to say that Wayne didn't land fish, because he no doubt landed more than any of the rest of us. A few Brown Trout were caught and the last day we heard of a Coho run with some silvery fresh fish being caught. Unfortunately we missed getting into any of them.

The second night there we learned of a good local restaurant in the town of Pulaski, We were eating our dinner when a man at the next table suddenly jumped up and grabbed Wayne's shoulder. He was choking and before any of us could react Scott Trefny jumped to his feet and started the Heimlich maneuver. Scott made the necessary abdominal thrusts while the three of us

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