Emerging

President's Message

Well, it's been a hot summer. I hope you all got a chance to get in some fishing before the real hot weather set in. Wayne Boggs and I attended a Northeast Regional National TU conference in Windham, New York in the Catskills last weekend. We had hoped to do some fishing in some of the fine streams in that area. Unfortunately, the temperatures had been in the mid to upper 90’s for almost two straight weeks. The streams that had been running at nice levels with cool water temps, dropped drastically and heated up to unfishable levels. The only trout fishing option would have been to arrive up there by 4:00 am to make a 2 to 3 hour drive to the West Branch of the Delaware. We decided against that idea. There was bass fishing available on the Schoharie, but it was just too darn hot. It was, however, a great 2 day event and we came away with valuable and very useful information.

Things are moving along nicely with our ongoing stream projects. Design and engineering work is underway on 5 more projects on the Conowingo Creek watershed with the actual work to be done sometime in the near future. On August 2nd we are scheduled to meet with Tom Stahl from the Lancaster County Conservancy at Camp Snyder on Climbers Run. Also in attendance will be Adam Smith from US Fish and Wildlife, among others. The Conservancy has some great plans for restoration of this fine property. It will be open to the public and has tremendous potential as a learning center for all kinds of groups, young and old. Their plans include repairing the campsite cabins, fixing a small breach in a pond which is on the property, as well as installing vernal pools in the small tributary that feeds the pond. We would be involved in the watershed issues which would also include some stream work involving bank restoration and installation of rock and stabilization structures. I believe this will become one of the most important properties that the Conservancy owns. Funding will come from several sources. We are expecting money from US Fish and Wildlife, Excelon Corp, and, perhaps, national TU’s ‘Embrace A Stream’ program. DTU will also be helping with the funding. This part of Climbers Run contains native brook trout and on August 21st, Matt Kofroth from the Lancaster County Conservation District is slated to do an electro-shocking to determine how extensive the brook trout population might be. This is a stocked trout stream and based on the results of the shocking, we may try to get a change in the regulations. We’ll see what happens. This September, PA Fish & Boat is scheduled to complete small projects on Charles Run and Fishing Creek. Check the website for volunteer opportunities.

Faye Haering did a great job with her 1st annual Ladies Fly Fishing Clinic at Hugh Wengert’s farm. You can read all about it in the newsletter. It was a tremendous success. We are still in need of several volunteers for our Big Brothers & Sisters fishing event at Ned Bushong’s farm on August 24th at 9:00 am. It’s just a morning of fun and fishing that’s a great time. Save the date.

Don’t forget - Picnic-August 21st Membership Meeting — Bob Bachman’s House on Blue Lake. Bring along your rods and fish for bass or carp. It’s a great venue and a great evening, so please try to make it. If you don’t know where it is, directions are on the website. See you there!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I’m sure that everyone looks forward to trout fishing in cooler weather. Be well!

TOM

Volunteer Corner

A few badges for fishing Millport Conservancy in 2013 are still available.

Volunteers are needed for the Big Brothers & Big Sisters event on August 24 at Ned Bushong’s pond. This is always a very enjoyable morning for both participants and volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to place log structures on Charles Run, appx Sept 12 or 13th.

Contact Faye Haering at fayeonthefly@comcast.net or 285-2572.
Welcome New Members

Dennis Beats  
1825 Lincoln Hwy East  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
nfbeats@yahoo.com

Richard Hess  
25 Duffield Dr  
Lititz, PA 17543

Barry Rodeffer  
281 South Homestead Drive  
Landisville, PA 17538  
sbrodeffer@verizon.net

Walter Cunningham  
389 Wesley Rd  
Quarryville, PA 17566

Thomas Larkin  
1325 Valley Rd  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Val Products, Inc  
PO Box 8  
New Holland, PA 17557

Gregory Duncan  
591 Prince George Dr  
Lancaster, PA 17601

John McLain  
60 Fresh Meadow Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
johnmclain47@clear.net

Shari Young  
151 Koser Rd  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
shryoung394@gmail.com

Nathan Fichthorn  
58 East Pine Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
nfichthorn@digitalindigo.com

Alan Reger  
32 Elizabeth St  
Christiana, PA 17509  
areger@epix.net

At-Large  
Facebook Administrator  
Mark Ebner  
mebner88@gmail.com

Conservation  
Bob Kutz  
940.1541 (home)  
kutzbobi@gmail.com

Volunteers  
Faye Haering  
285.2572 (home)  
fayeonthefly@comcast.net

At Large  
Bob Albright  
733.9430 (home)  
bobndort@dejazzd.com

Good Wishes  
David Stover  
717.467.3513 (home)  
davstover@citizen.com

Nursery  
Tom Royer  
733.6687 (home)  
royer207@dejazzd.com

At Large  
Paul Zegley  
717.715.7307 (cell)  
pequeapaul@epix.net

Water New Members...
PROGRAMS

AUGUST

We’ll wrap up the Summer with a picnic at the home of Bob Bachman on Blue Lake near Reims. Be sure to bring a folding chair.

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

For the chapter meeting on September 18th we return to the Farm & Home Center, and our usual meeting time of 7 pm. The speaker will be Gary Edwards, who will share his knowledge of steelhead fishing on the Salmon River in New York.

OCTOBER

Eric Stroup of Stroup Fly Fishing will be our featured speaker for the October-Fest at the Four Seasons Banquet Facility this year. Eric is a highly-regarded fly tyer, guide and author throughout Central PA and beyond and his topic will be “Fly Fishing in Central PA”. This is bound to be a great evening, with good food, drinks and camaradrie as well as raffle prizes. Menu and reservation details in the October Mayflyer and on the website.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

We will have a busy fall schedule this year. On Sept. 9th, DTU, along with the PA Fish & Boat Commission, will start work on 3 projects. The first will be building 3 stone deflectors on the Bob Landis farm on Fishing Creek along Scaply Hollow Road. The second project is also on Bob’s property. We will be installing 50 tons of 18” - 24” stones along a bank that was worked on last year. We need to add the stone to eliminate bank erosion caused by winter and spring floods. All work on the Fishing Creek sites will be done with machinery. The third project will be on the Lester Nolt farm along Musser Road in Mt. Joy Township. We will be installing several log deflectors to stop erosion along Charles Run. Charles Run is the main trib to the Donegal Spring Creek. We will need volunteers to help build the devices. Work to start about Sept. 12th or 13th.

Conowingo Creek: Rettew Associates has started to design and survey the Daniel Lapp farm along Black Baron Road. This site will be the first of 5 new projects that will be funded by our new $216,000 grant soon to be announced. The other sites will designed & permitted at a later date this year. We will then submit for a construction amendment to the grant once the build costs have been estimated.

DTU and the Lancaster County Conservancy are in the planning stage to determine how to protect & enhance the stretch of Climbers Run running through their “Camp Snyder” property. The Conservancy wants to turn the property into an Educational Center including vernal ponds and a healthy stream to study fish habitat as well as the insects that live within the stream. We plan to form a coalition with the Conservancy as well as US Fish & Wildlife, Exelon Energy, national TU and other funding organizations. We should have more concrete plans to report upon in the Fall.

PAUL ZEGLEY
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Foundation of Lancaster County
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Rohrerstown, PA 17603
MAYFLYER ADS

If you are a business owner and would like to reach over 560 members with a common interest, please consider running your ad in the Mayflyer. There are 6 issues each year. Cost of the ads are $150 for a business card size and $300 for a half page ad.

Please contact Glen Nephin at gnephin@ptd.net or 271-9208.
Our first-ever Ladies Fly Fishing Clinic was held on June 22nd, 2013 at the property of Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Wenger, near Elizabethtown. Several times in the past they have hosted our Special Olympic Derbies.

We were most fortunate to have the expertise of FFF-certified Guide & Instructor Dianne Tidy of Chesapeake Women Anglers & her husband Ken Tidy as instructors for this event.

Fifteen ladies showed up for this clinic from a variety of locations, many as a result of the two Coldwater Conservation Breakfats that we have hosted over the past two years.

We assembled at the Wenger’s property at 9:30 AM and Dianne gave a presentation on the basics of fly fishing and all the essentials including rods, reels, leaders, flies, waders, and boots for beginners and more.

Then the ladies went outside on the lawn and learned how to assemble and rig their rods before taking a rod in hand and learning the mechanics of casting techniques. Several had at least a little experience in casting.

The class was then broken up into groups and Ken Tidy gave a course on leaders and knots while the rest went to receive individual instruction on casting from Dianne. For lunch we moved to a shady part of the property for a picnic of Subway hoagies provided by the chapter. After lunch the two groups rotated and resumed the casting, and knots & leader classes.

Before you knew it the day had passed and those that wished to fish, went down to the pond to try their hand. Although the fish weren’t very cooperative, several ladies got to enjoy having a fish on.

Tom Hall, DTU President, Jim Wellendorf, VP and board members Mark McMaster and Paul Zegley pitched in to help throughout the day.

Linda Parenti, Pier Ignozzi from the Tulpehocken Chapter, DTU members Cecilia Herr, Joy McMaster, Sibbie Zegley, Pat Irwin, Katie LeSeur, Carol Morgan, Glenda Broad, and Cheryl Ricca as well as Nancy Spangenberg, Cumberland Valley TU, and two ladies from the DC area, Marcia Jones and Gwen Geddie were the attendees.

Both Cecilia Herr and I are also members of the Delaware Women Anglers.

We have plans to join Cecilia up on the Tully as a group and fish when the weather cooperates in September. More to follow on that. Then I will pick a date for a group to fish the Yellow Breeches in that same time frame.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this such a success.

Stay tuned, as we have formative plans for an intermediate clinic for both men and women for next year.
Photos courtesy
Jim Wellendorf,
Faye Haering
&
Mark McMaster
June Picnic

As the Dinah Washington song, “What A Difference A Day Makes” says so well, the difference between Monday’s storms and Wednesday’s picnic was remarkable. The weather on Wednesday June 19, 2013 could not have been better. The sky was blue, the sun was bright and the temperature perfect. As a result 50 members and guests were treated to an enjoyable evening of food and relaxation in a beautiful setting. The picnic, which was held at the Millport Conservancy, started at 6 PM. Wayne Boggs, DTU’s Program Chairperson, was the Maître d’, Greg Wilson provided the grill and chef Mark Ebner, cooked the sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers to perfection. Add in baked beans, chips, crackers and cookies and you have recipe for a good cookout.

After dinner, Tom Hall, DTU’s President, conducted a brief membership meeting. He was followed by Lynn Myers, Executive Director of the Millport Conservancy, who welcomed everyone. Lynn gave a brief history of the Conservancy and invited everyone to tour the Conservancy and Lititz Run after the meeting.

As the picnic ended, everyone was looking forward to the membership meeting on August 21, 2013 which will be a picnic at Bob Bachman’s home. It should be another fun “Day”.

Photos courtesy Jim Wellendorf & Wayne Boggs
June 18th, 2013

The Cicada’s are here and they are calling and making a deafening sound.

Was invited to join Michael Snody and his friend Robert who was visiting him from Nebraska (I think) at Clarks Creek in the unregulated section up from the Fly Fishing Only area.

Met them early at a parking lot off of 225 near Halifax and off we went. His friend Glen had generously made us some Cicada’s (rather sizable in black & orange), so after eating our lunch that I had prepared, and they seemed to appreciate, we geared up.

We hiked on down to the stream and note that the conditions are good and hope that the trout are in agreement.

Takes a bit to adjust to that sizeable weighty fly as it flies.

Sometimes upright, and sometimes not, through the air (not with the greatest of ease), but finally am able to get it right (somewhat)! I note that there are cicadas everywhere in the air and on the water. I could raise my hand and catch them overhead (ZZZZZ!) and pick them up off the stream.

Think someone forgot to send the trout an e-mail that the cicadas were here and plentiful as they rejected them. Hmmm! So, Michael puts on a hopper in a similar coloration and guess what, they liked that! Chomp! So, that worked for quite awhile and I put on a hopper that I have, and up, up and away it goes and surprisingly it liked mine. BUT, one of the few times that I was really paying attention and I ripped that fly so fast out of that trout’s mouth, you just could not believe that. Michael thought sure I had him as did I, but sadly I didn’t. Shucks!

Michael was fortunate to catch quite a few nice sized trout that were stream bred and so very beautiful. A lovely opportunity to see them up close. He has no shame!

Guess I won’t brag about my great ability to catch trout in numbers, but just know that I am not going to let this deter me from this sport and as soon as the weather cooperates I’m going to go and work on my technical skills and try again.

Fortunately, I have already been to the Tully and the Breeches and had good fortune, so shall not write myself off completely as a Fly Fisherman.

I’ll be back and be better prepared (I hope). Gotta have a sense of humor to take up this sport or you’ll never advance and enjoy.

Had a great day out in the wilds of Clarks Creek and enjoyed my time with Robert & Michael and am thankful for my day and time on the water.

Faye Haering

Photos courtesy
Mike Snody

>>>))))))))))O))> ~~~~~~~~~~~! FISH ON!
The Golden Rainbow Trout

For me the year 2005, was a very satisfying and fulfilling year. I had the opportunity to fish many rivers and streams. I landed the very aggressive cut-bows from the Clark’s Fork of the Yellowstone River in northwestern Wyoming. The elusive cutthroat trout of Soda Butte Creek in northeastern Yellowstone Park, gave me great sport. The browns and rainbows of the weed beds in the Fire Hole River of west Yellowstone presented many challenges. My rods were worked hard on the hefty hopper-eating browns of the fast current pocket water at the Three Dollar Bridge on the Madison River in southwest Montana. The challenge was on, when I cast to the ultra selective rainbows of the Henry’s Fork in southeastern Idaho. I made many slack line casts to the dry fly gulping wild brookies of Young Women’s Creek in north central Pennsylvania. My education keeps being broadened, when I fish for the highly educated trout, or should I say highly adapted to their environment of the limestone spring creeks of south central Pennsylvania namely the Letort and Big Springs Creeks. I fished many other streams, but the one I fished the most is the famed Yellow Breeches.

In the beginning of May, I was on the Breeches when I spotted a large trout which at that time I thought was a palomino. She was just lying on the bottom of slow flat water. Of course, the challenge was before me. I watched and she was not feeding at all. To catch a trout of this size, on a dry fly would be great sport. I tried several different dry flies, without even a look from her. Saying to myself “it has to be a nymph” which I tried with no reaction. I moved on to a rising trout upstream. A day later, I was on the Breeches again. I saw her again in the same place. This time I tried an emerger, four to six inches under the surface. The trout just laid there almost motionless. I tied a hare’s ear nymph to my tippet and hit her on the nose. The palomino just moved up stream and once again became motionless. I had the opportunity to talk to other anglers about this trout and I was told they tried for her with no success. This trout was becoming a real personal challenge to me. The challenge of catching this fish continued through out the entire month with no response. I could not find anyone, who had even pricked this trout. I came to the conclusion this trout was a night feeder, from her motionless state during the day. Around the end of June, a large heavily-branched tree fell into the water. This tree covered three quarters of the stream and created a funnel. Through this, the fallen tree started a stronger current on the one side of the stream. There was a good supply of food being drawn into this funnel. I started to keep my eyes on the two converging currents. Larger trout would lie along this seam to access the more readily available food being brought down by the stronger current. I managed to catch several trout eighteen to twenty inches from this seam.

On October 2, 2005, I got to the Breeches before daylight. There were no other fishermen around. I knew this could be some good fishing, because the trout were not cast over or kicked around by many wading anglers. It was just breaking daylight, and there I saw her. She was laying in the seam, moving in and out of the current feeding. This was the one I had been trying to catch. I stood very still and just watched her. She gracefully took something very near the bottom. From what I seen, I was sure it was some kind of a baitfish. Slowly moving on, I left her alone. That night I tied some woolly buggers on size ten hooks 4x long shank. The next morning again I was there before dawn. Slowly wading into the stream, I stood motionless watching the seam of the two converging currents. This trout moved into the seam again to feed.

It was just starting to break dawn. I waited a few minutes to let her feel safe with the lie she had chosen, then I made the first cast slightly up stream and across. The woolly bugger sank and dead drifted downstream till line and leader were straight with the current. At that time, I started short retrieves right past the trout with no reaction to the bugger. Different ideas ran through my mind. I remembered trout will take crippled insects and bait fish because they are easier prey. I made another cast, but this time when the bugger got close to her I would short retrieve and move my rod tip downstream allowing the bugger to drift like it was hurt. She took the woolly bugger with one fast move. Firmly lifting my arm and rod, I set the hook. I looked at my watch and it was 7:10 am. The 5x tippet I was sure would hold her. When she felt the point of the hook, she took off down the stream like a locomotive. Peeling line off at a fast pace, I used the tension of the rod and the drag of the reel to work against her. The line was coming to the end, so I immediately put my rod to the horizontal position to turn her. The trout came back upstream at the same pace. This fight continued till I thought she was ready for the net. When the net was put close to her, she was off and running again. Two more times I thought she could be netted, but she eluded the net both times.

Finally I got her to shallow water, and this time I held the rod with my left arm as far as it would reach in front of me. With one swift move of my right arm, I brought the net over her tail towards her head. I lifted her from the water and immediately brought my left arm over to help hold the net. I looked at my watch again and it was 8:05 am, with disbelief it was a fifty-five minute fight. Hurrying to the bank because I wanted a picture and measurement of this trout, I took the fish from the net and realized that the trout was not a palomino. This trout had colors like I have never seen. She had a wide stripe of reddish orange like a sunset down her side, with a dark golden body. This trout was twenty-four inches long. She fought with more vigilance, stimulating runs, and the willpower to live than any other trout that I caught in 2005. This beautiful, hefty trout took a size 10 4x long shank, gold beadhead olive woolly bugger. When I was finished with the measuring and picture taking, I put my hand under her belly, with my other hand wrapped around the wrist of her tail, I submerged her into the water. She was only submerged for a couple of seconds when she took off like she was never hooked. Realizing at this moment that this was not a palomino trout, I started to do some research.
The trout I caught was not a palomino it was a golden rainbow trout. Both fish are standard rainbow trout, (Oncorhynchus mykiss) they just have different pigmentation colors. There is a lot of argument about these two trout, but they are different only in color. Looking at these trout side by side, one can see the difference. The golden rainbow of West Virginia and Pennsylvania must not be mistaken for the golden trout of California, (Oncorhynchus aguabonita). Our trout are distinct from the species of California.

Golden rainbows originated from a single regular rainbow that was spawned in the fall of 1954 in West Virginia. Through selective breeding in West Virginia, with regular rainbows an all golden rainbow was developed. In 1963, this strain became West Virginia Centennial Golden Trout. Pennsylvania obtained fertilized golden rainbow eggs from West Virginia. When the golden rainbow trout reached maturity, they were crossed with regular rainbow trout. The result of this crossing produced the palomino trout. The stocking of the palomino first took place in 1967 season. Since the palomino has been bred, the genetic strain has weakened in Pennsylvania. The state has been selectively breeding the golden rainbow hybrid, because they are stronger and more brilliant in color. The golden rainbow of today are only being raised to trophy size. They are kept in the hatchery for two to two and a half years before they are stocked throughout the state for anglers. The state expects to fade out the palomino and breed all golden. They call the golden “sport fish” and they will give you great sport. Please remember these trout are rainbow trout, different only in color. They are not sterile hybrids. Breeding in the wild is doubtful, because their brilliant colors make them highly visible to predators. Some of these golden trout can be found in the Yellow Breeches Creek of Pennsylvania. If the opportunity presents itself to catch a golden, one will never forget the experience. For more in-depth information on the golden rainbow trout, visit the Benner Springs Fish Research Station in Center County Pennsylvania. At State College, on Route 322 take Route 26 northeast to Route 150 north on the left. Follow the signs right to the hatchery. At the hatchery, contact Mr. Paul Martis, who is the fish breeding manager, but anyone there will be happy to answer any questions. There are tours of the hatchery.

If one is interested in fishing the Yellow Breeches Creek, it is located in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania off of Interstate 81. The stream has over thirty miles of trout fishing with stream widths of twelve to sixty feet and different types of water, browns and rainbows being the sought-after fish.

Though different as can be, when asked how the day’s fishing went they’ll both refer to the fact that it was very technical.

You’ve seen both types. One is the old timer. He has the same rod, reel, waders etc that he’s used for years. He’s knowledgeable from many years on the stream. What’s more he gladly shares his knowledge, technique, and more importantly some of his success spots. He knows the flies and calls them blue wings or caddis or spinners or whatever else was out there.

He’s one of the best you know, can cast to the spot he wants to hit and come back with a fish most of the time. When it doesn’t happen for him he shrugs it off and just says ‘it was very technical out there’.

The other guy looks like he stepped out of a combination of Brooks Brothers and Orvis catalogs. He’s got the latest in equipment. He may be somewhat new but knows the lingo: water temp, wind speed, current, drag, etc. He’ll talk about tippet and leader size and will only fish fluorocarbon. He is very knowledgeable about flies. He’s adept at order, family, genus and species. And of course when and where to use that special one.

He does catch fish. They may be unwitnessed fish but the count is there most of the time. When it isn’t he too will allude to the fact that ‘it was really technical out there’.

In spite of their different styles they mean the same thing: I didn’t catch anything.