Summer greetings!

It’s kind of a lazy time of the year. Too hot to fish, although we had decent amounts of rain and the stream levels have not been too bad. My wife and I spent over half of June in Botswana and Zimbabwe in southern Africa on a photo safari. It was our fourth trip and probably our best. Every time we say it’s our last but probably not.

For those of you that were not able to attend the June picnic at Climbers Run Nature Preserve, you missed a great event. Great food and fellowship as well as a presentation by several young women from Stroud’s Water research center. Examining leaf bags that had been immersed in Climbers Run for macro invertebrates was a fun experience for everyone. By far, the largest numbers belonged to stone flies, which is a very good sign.

We now have over $60,000 in grant money for our stream work on the Climbers Run project. The Lancaster County Conservancy is busy transforming this property into a tremendous educational center and nature preserve but, for our part, Adam Smith and his crew will probably not be able to start until late winter or early spring.

We have some great volunteer opportunities coming up in the next 2 months. On August 23rd we are holding our annual Big Brothers & Sisters fishing event at Ned Bushong’s farm on Clay road. It’s a morning event where kids and their mentors come to fish in the ponds. They catch bass and bluegills and have a great time. If you’ve never had the opportunity to help out with this, please contact Ned and come on out. You will be glad you did. On September 13th we are having our first, youth fly fishing clinic at Hugh Wenger’s farm outside of Elizabethtown. This will include some basic fly casting and knot tying instruction as well as an opportunity to actually catch some bluegills and bass. Please mark this on your calendars and come out and support this event. Let Faye Haering know if you can help. Also, if you have children or grandchildren in the age range of 12 to 18, boys or girls, please let Faye know and sign them up. We are limiting the number of kids to 15 and we still have a few openings.

Please make note: We are having our first family picnic at Millport Conservancy on August 20th. I encourage everyone to come out and bring their entire family to enjoy some great food and TU fellowship. All kids are welcome. Please make plans to join us. Charlie Charlesworth, who is vice-president of PATU will be there to give us some info on next year’s National TU meeting in Scranton. PATU is hosting the four day event and would like it to be the best one ever. I’ve heard some of the details of the programs and I think it will be well worth attending.

As always, I want to thank you all for your continuing hard work and support to help make our chapter such a success.

Tom

Volunteer Corner

Badges for fishing Millport Conservancy in 2014 are still available for chapter members and members of the Conservancy. Pricing remains the same: $20 in person, $22.50 to cover mailing expenses. You must include your telephone # and membership info.

Volunteers will be needed to help at Big Brothers Big Sisters on Saturday, August 23.

Volunteers will be needed to help teach the basics of fly fishing at our first Youth Clinic on Saturday, September 13.

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

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Images of mayflies in this publication are based on photographs from Jason Neuswanger (www.troutnut.com), whose rights, contribution to our knowledge of streamlife, and photographic skills are gratefully acknowledged.
PROGRAMS

AUGUST

We say farewell to summer with one final picnic on August 20th. This will be held at Millport Conservancy, and is intended to be a family affair. Bring wives, husbands, children and grandchildren to enjoy a variety of grilled brats, hot dogs, numerous toppings as well as local tomatoes, melons and cantaloupes. Don’t forget to bring folding chairs.

SEPTEMBER

On September 17th we return to the Farm & Home Center and our usual meeting time of 7 pm. The program this month will feature Jeff Skelding, Executive Director of Friends of the Upper Delaware, who will talk to us about some of the conservation and restoration work being done on that outstanding trout water.

OCTOBER

For our OctoberFest this year at the Four Seasons Banquet Facility in Landisville, our speaker will be Jack Hubley, well-known host of “A Wild Moment”. The evening will feature dinner, chapter awards, the induction of new officers and board as well as raffle prizes. Don’t miss it.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Bob Kutz is out of state, the report that follows is his report to the board on July 9.

On June 4th, Greg Wilson & I met with Adam Smith, Mike Burcin and Matt Kofroth at Camp Snyder to review the project. Adam confirmed that he will not be able to start the project until next year. There is a possibility that he can begin to remove invasive trees, roses and vines in March.

We then drove to a property where the owner requested help to stop erosion on her Climbers Run property. Adam and Matt agreed that a 100-foot mud sill will solve the problem. Adam will design, permit and build the project next year. Pricing was not discussed at this time.

On June 25th, Matt Kofroth, along with 5 DTU volunteers, electro-shocked 2 new stretches of Climbers Run. Lower Camp Snyder was the first site showing around 20 brook trout. The Menno Stolzfus farm was the next to be shocked showing only a few brookies but we also found a healthy 13” rainbow left over from a former stocking. After the shocking, Matt & I visited another property owner on Fishing Creek, who requested help with her eroding banks. Matt suggested several devices that could be added to stop the erosion on the Metzler property. I will start the permitting process this fall. Estimated costs are approximately $20,000. Final costs will be obtained after the design is completed.

Also, we were contacted by Perennial Environmental Services of Houston Texas. They are the company that will design and permit the 13–mile gas pipeline extension for the Williams Co. This extension will start around the Buck area and run into Cecil County in Maryland. DTU will submit a cost to rebuild 3 sections of Fishing Creek on the Bob Herr farm. We believe we may be in line for some mitigation funds from the Williams Co. as they have to bore under 4 Lancaster County streams. We do not know how much funding will be forthcoming, if any. We are “working the system” so to speak. Rettew has already visited the site and is working with the representative from Perennial. Mark Metzler will work up a proposal. More info to follow as they develop.

Mark Metzler did plans for an area above Camp Snyder.

There is a site on the Conowingo which was done earlier that needs repair from recent flooding. That work is now underway.

Bob and Matt looked at yet another site on Fishing Creek. It will be perused.

MAYFLYER

Due to their length and the complexity of editing them for inclusion in the Mayflyer, the board has decided to post the minutes from the monthly board meetings to the website as distinct items. Each issue will be posted shortly after the following month’s meeting (when they are formally approved), and remain on the site until the next set is posted. In this way those who are interested in the business of the chapter will be kept informed in a timely manner and the Mayflyer itself will not be so bulky.

It has been some time since we reminded members that the only way we have to communicate with them
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.

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June Picnic

“It’s summertime, summertime, sum, sum summertime!”

As the 1958 classic rock’n roll song by The Jamies said so well, it is indeed summertime. To begin the summertime season Donegal Trout Unlimited held its annual June picnic on Wednesday June 18, 2014.

One of the Board’s initiatives is to expose our members to our stream restoration projects. Given the location of our projects, that it not always easy to do. This year we had an opportunity to showcase our newest stream restoration project and have our picnic at the same time. We took advantage of an invitation from Mike Burcin, CEO/COO of the Lancaster County Conservancy, to hold our picnic at Climbers Run Nature Preserve.

The picnic began with a short business meeting conducted by Tom Hall, Chapter President. The meeting was eagerly followed by a wonderful picnic prepared by Stan Shenk, a Chapter member and Manager of the Stauffer’s of Kissel Hill (SKH) Store in Lititz, PA. The meal, which was subsidized by SKH, consisted of barbecued chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, chips and cookies. From the looks on everyone’s faces, this was a picnic meal to remember.

After dinner, Paul Zegley, Program Chairman introduced Tara Muntz and Kerry Mapes from the Stroud Water Research Center. The Stroud Center mission is to advance knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems. One of the tools they have developed is to collect leaves that are indigenous to the stream in mesh leaf bags and submerge the bags in the stream. After several weeks, the bags are opened and the number and type of insect larva are counted to determine the “health” of the stream. To demonstrate this tool, Paul Zegley submerged several leaf bags in Climbers Run four weeks prior to the picnic. Tara and Kerry explained the counting procedure and split the members into two groups to identify and quantify the insects from Climbers Run. The members enthusiastically took to their task and were amazed to find significant numbers of mayflies, caddis flies, stone flies, worms and other insects. The demonstration convinced everyone that leaf bags would be a valuable tool to use in our stream restoration projects.

A beautiful setting, delicious food and informative presentation. Now that’s the way to start the “sum, sum, summertime”!

Photos courtesy Jim Wellendorf & Bob Kutz
Wading Basics

I stared down from the bridge parapet at rushing water at least a foot above its normal levels. This was the headwaters of Kettle Creek, and I’d hoped it might have fallen and cleared since the most recent big rain of a very rainy May. Headwaters and tributaries usually recover fastest after a rain event, but this spot had obviously not had enough time. I could clearly see places that were below my knees wading a few weeks prior, and now would be half-way up my thighs. I knew that even getting to the fishing would be chancy now, across low creek bottoms that would be awash, and along some trails close to the water that might be washed out if not submerged. I made the safe decision, and decided not to fish that day.

Several years ago I had fished two miles downstream of this spot in water not nearly as high, and found the current against the upstream side of my waders almost slopping in over the top. When I could go no farther, and I turned to wade back to my entry point downstream, I had to brace myself against the flow by grabbing bankside shrubs and overhanging branches. It was not the first time I was actually frightened by the power of water.

When it comes to wading safety, this is the first lesson: Respect the element of water. Know your limits; if you are nervous about wading on a given day in a given spot, don’t. In short, use your powers of observation and common sense before setting a toe in the water. Don’t turn off those powers of observation while fishing, either. If there is a thunderstorm upstream, or a release from a dam, conditions can change very quickly. I’ve seen companions stranded when a dam release came down and deeper water lay between them and the shore. And once I had to round up three fishing students and shepherd them across the shallowest part of a creek because I’d noticed the protruding rock I’d been watching (knowing there were thundershower predicted) was now underwater. By the time we’d stowed our gear in the nearby car, the level had risen another foot. We’d never have made it across the now-waist-deep ford. Somewhere upstream, beyond our sight or hearing, a storm was adding to the flow.

Anyone who knows me, knows I carry a wading staff even on dry land, or in calm and shallow water. This reinforces the habit of doing so, so I won’t leave it in the car on occasions it is really vital. Equally important, it accustoms me to handling it. The lesson here is, if you can’t see through the water, you can also use the staff to probe ahead, checking for holes and dropoffs. Remember, slow and careful is also quiet. Herons wade slowly, catch a lot more fish than humans do, and never fall in!

Use your eyes to check for safe crossing spots in advance. Crossing at shallow riffles is safer and the noise of the water masks the sound of your steps from the fish. Fast shallow water or slow deep water are safe; fast deep water is not. Watch for silty bottoms that could trap your feet, another thing to probe with your wading staff. Mossy rocks and submerged wood are bound to be slick. Wade around them rather than stepping on them if possible. Be especially careful entering and exiting the stream in case the bank crumbles or is slippery.

Other common-sense precautions include carrying a cell phone where they work, sealed well in a waterproof container; keeping a loud whistle in your vest; and telling someone where you’ll be and when you expect to be back. If you do fall in, it’s a wonderful thing to have a change of clothes stashed in the car. I choose an ensemble of my least-favorite apparel to leave in the car permanently, and include a sports-towel to mop myself off. On the occasions I’ve had to use them, I’ve looked eccentric but felt comfortable.

Wading is a wonderful way to feel ‘at one’ with the stream environment we all love so much, and provides a childlike pleasure that is one of fly-fishing’s charms. Practice safe wading, and remember: Safe wading is also quiet wading, improving your chances of catching fish as well as your chances of surviving the experience.

RABBIT JENSEN
REPRINTED FROM “A WOMAN’S FINGLE” DELAWARE VALLEY WOMEN’S FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2014
Chesapeake Women Anglers Memorial Day Retreat at Carol Stevenson’s & Phil Gay’s property in Monkton Maryland was held on May 23rd through May 26th this year.

I went down on Friday to their property adjoining the Gunpowder River and had a lovely room overlooking the River. Hard to beat the accommodations and beauty of the gardens and landscaping that stood out in a crowd, not to mention those breakfasts that Carol prepares. Bird feeders provide a great deal of entertainment with the variety of birds that are attracted in that area along the stream.

There is a huge patio with seating that allows many to enjoy the offerings as well as the view of the river.

Some of the ladies came and stayed over and many came on Saturday which provided most of the activities and wonderful selection of foods, drinks etc.

Many got suited up and went to various areas to fish as the Gunpowder at Monkton was too high. Some went to Masemore, but didn’t get any reports of catching any fish, only that it was crowded as expected.

There was casting instruction by the Tidy’s and also the sale of the estate of Ann McIntosh, author of Budget Angler, guide and instructor who had passed away recently.

This schedule continued over the weekend with people coming and people going and taking part in whatever was going on and adding to it in some way. Some neighbors also came and brought foodstuffs and stayed and ate at the groaning board which contained so very much wonderful food. It’s always interesting to try and find a place in the two huge refrigerators to stuff something else in.

We are fortunate that the Backwater Angler is still in business for a shop to go to and get flies and help with questions about fishing or where to go. Theaux Le Gardeur is always so happy to see us and we him.

On Sunday a couple of the ladies and myself went up to York Road and went to the Rail Trail and accessed the stream from there, which looked most fishable but none were seen or caught. Good to wet a fly though. I stayed through Monday and had such a good time.

It’s hard to beat the location on this private road and area of stream in Monkton and the accommodations and generosity of the hosts Phil Gay & Carol Stevenson, who continue to share their home and property annually for this event. You won’t see Phil actually there when this event is held, with all these ladies present.

Wish everyone could have this experience as it provides so much fun and camaraderie with friends that are maybe only seen once a year at this affair and have an exchange. I am thankful to yet again be sharing this experience with other ladies who are involved in fly fishing and all that it has to offer.

I would encourage you all to keep up with whatever is necessary to continue with this sport, for the places it will take you and the people you will meet along the way and the fish that will take your fly.

FAYE HAERING
MEMBER OF DTU
&
DELAWARE VALLEY WOMEN ANGLERS
&
CWA

Committee Reports, continued

is via email. Therefore it is important that you ensure that your email address registered with “national” is correct. If for some reason you do not want TU itself to have your email address, we also maintain a separate list of chapter members which is used solely for the chapter’s communication and is not shared with anyone else. If you wish to be on that list, simply send your contact information to Wayne Boggs (troutwiseperm@gmail.com).

MARK McMASTERS
EDITOR

Donegal Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization affiliated with National Trout Unlimited located at 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 500, Arlington, Virginia 22209-2404 (703.522.0200)