President’s Message

Having worked and interacted with many of you over the last 20 years, I have observed the incredible capabilities of this TU chapter. As the new president of DTU I look forward to supporting you in order to continue with the exceptional work that has been done by the very capable leaders who have preceded me.

Currently we are putting the finishing touches to the Climber’s Run project just south of Lancaster City. All the work including grass seeding, tree planting and bank fencing will hopefully be completed before the winter snows descend. You can check the progress on Climber’s Run by viewing the before and after pictures of the project on our web site. Check the Photo section under the Website menu and click on Climber’s Run. The crew from US Fish & Wildlife did a great job repairing 6 foot high cut banks and other major erosion problems as they restored the stream to a controlled meandering flow.

DTU is constantly looking for more member participation. A major part of DTU’s contribution to cold water conservation is maintaining Lancaster County water and soil in Lancaster County. As a member of DTU there are a variety of ways you can support the chapter’s mission. Here are some of the jobs you might find interesting and gratifying: work in the Millport nursery, stream cleanup, in-stream restoration, fish stocking, fish shocking, tree planting, chairing a committee, joining the Board, stream monitoring, equipment repair, writing grants, contributing articles for the Newsletter, editing the website, soliciting donations and items for the banquet, searching for presenters, and securing permits for stream projects. If you can help in any way your time will be appreciated.

Formal preparation for the Spring Banquet, April 2, is already underway and will go into full swing in early December. The committee would appreciate your help and ideas. Help is always needed to collect items for the banquet. You can do as much or as little as you want and make a significant contribution to the event. Email me if you can help.

Currently the only position not filled on the Board is the Education Chairperson. This position would oversee the educational projects that the chapter is involved in.

I look forward to my role as president of DTU but I need your help. If interested in helping please contact me, 717.733.2365 or email at the address above.

Wayne Boggs

“The gods do not deduct from a man’s span the hours spent in fishing” — Babylonian quote

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**Welcome New Members**

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**A Cabela’s fly box was found on Lititz Run in the Millport section last weekend. To claim it call Wayne Boggs, 717.733.2365 and describe the contents.**
PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 15

Our annual fly-tying demo evening, this year featuring 5 tyers. Chuck Elmer will tie a Foam Hopper, Gary Roulston will tie a Wooly Bugger, Jack Ward will tie a Caddis, Nancy Suloff and Grayson Hirst are still deciding what they will tie. Come out and learn some new patterns or techniques. It could be a long Winter, so brush up your tying skills.

JANUARY 19

Dr. Dorothy Merritts, of F&M College, will present "Impacts of Early American Mill Dams and Stored Legacy Sediments on the Chesapeake Bay. Learn why the streams of Lancaster County look the way they do, thanks to 18th-Century technology.

Conservation Committee

Good news to report!

Conowingo Creek Project

On November 15, 2010, Mark Metzler, President of Wild Resources, reported that the Herb Weaver project located on the Conowingo Creek, is finished. Students from Penn State applied the finishing touches, tree plantings, on November 13th. The cost of this restoration project was $280,000. Mark & our contractor, Fly Way Construction, did a great job. Part of the design included building a 1/2 acre wetland area which will be planted with specific wetland plants next spring. You can easily find this site by driving south out of Willow Street on Rt. 272 South. Drive past the Tanglewood Golf Course and in approximately 2 miles you will come to Spring Valley Road. Turn left onto Spring Valley Rd. The site will be on your left as you approach the stream. You will be impressed with all the work accomplished.

DTU is currently looking at four more sites within the watershed. Surveying and design have started on both the golf course as well as the farm project immediately downstream. These sites are too big for DTU & the Fish Commission to tackle and will need Wild Resources to design & manage the construction. There will be 2 more sites that can possibly be handled by DTU. More information to follow as work progresses along. To date, we have completed 5 of the 128 impaired sites Needless to say, there is a tremendous amount of work to accomplish our goal of a complete stream restoration of Conowingo Creek

Climbers Run Project

As of November 24, 2010, the construction of the Climbers Run Project is completed. Adam Smith, manager of the construction crew from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife agency, reports that final grading and seeding are also completed and that the permanent fencing will be put in starting in December. There may be more tree plantings necessary next spring due to some mortality of the trees recently planted by 20 students from Conestoga Valley & Solanco School Districts. These students planted over 440 trees in less than 4 hours on November 19th. The students and their teachers did a great job.

The Climbers Run Project was the largest financial undertaking in our chapter’s history. The project cost was over $50,000 & most of the money came from DTU funds. As you know, DTU did not have the funds to pay for this sizeable project by itself. Ted Downs, then President of DTU began to work behind the scenes by contacting a list of possible partners who might be interested in our project. Ted found three energy companies and one State agency to help fund the project. He solicited $15,000 from Exelon Corp., $2,500 from both PPL Corp. and Consultation Energy, as well as $6,000 from the PA Fish & Boat Commission. The grant money totaled $26,000 while DTU’s outlay was $24,000.

The Conservation committee is looking for a short break before recommending more projects to the board.

I wish you a happy holiday season.

Bob Kutz
Conservation Chairman

Website

The website continues to grow. New photos and new videos as well, are being added frequently. All back issues of the Mayflyer are once again online. It is our intent to have the current issue of the Mayflyer available on the first of each appropriate month. If you would like to be notified via email when an issue is available, please be certain TU National or Wayne Boggs has your valid email address. Please check the site often at www.donegaltu.org for news and information about your chapter.

Photos courtesy Bob Wyble
Many more Photos & Video of this Project on the Website
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The weather forecast for Block Island Sound at Montauk on October 3 - 4 was winds 15 - 20 knots gusting to 30 knots. Not a good time to be on the water. So my crew mates Ted Downs and Bud Hyndman and I decided to bag it and head up to Long Island Tuesday hoping the weather would improve. It rained all the way to Montauk on Tuesday and continued raining Wednesday morning when we slipped out of the harbor at Montauk to look for albies and stripers. My Helly Hansen rain gear kept me dry except for getting wet up to my elbows. Why can’t someone design rain gear to keep your arms dry? Fishing in 1 - 2 foot waves was fine but we couldn’t find albies or stripers. So, we wired up and fished spin cast rods for blues with moderate success.

The skies cleared Wednesday night but it started to blow Thursday morning with a small craft advisory in affect until noon Thursday. We hung out around the motel and decided to give it a try about 9:00. Waves were 3 - 4 feet but fishable with spin cast rods. Caught a few blues on top and I caught a nice 12 pound blue, jigging on the bottom. We did manage to catch a few stripers mixed in with the blues. The wind and tide worked against each other creating a rough chop so my 21-foot parker pound ed pretty good coming back to the dock.

Friday greeted us with a stiff breeze but the forecast was good so we were on the water at sunup. We found birds working fish on top and managed to catch a few stripers with fly rods. Bud was fishing in the bow trying to find his sea legs, cast a fly line in the wind and hook a fish. Ted yelled, “Bud, I warned you that this is not your grandma’s fishing trip.” Bud replied, “yeah, this is not a fishing trip; this is an adventure.” Bud was able to hook and land his first striper, fishing a fly rod from a boat. That’s a rush that can only be experienced, can’t be explained.

I threw a fly line to some breaking fish and hooked up. What I thought was a big blue turned out to be an albie, the only albie we caught on the trip. We ended the day with an excellent seafood dinner at Gosman’s Restaurant in Montauk.

“I have never seen so many stripers in a blitz feeding so long”

Saturday we were at the Light House point at sunup and the striper blitz was on. The sky was full of birds diving and hundreds of stripers in tight schools fed on 1 - 2 inch bay anchovies. I moved the boat in on a school of stripers and the water was so clear you could see them, shoulder to shoulder, all facing the same direction. The school was so thick stripers bumped against the boat. Bud and Ted hooked up instantly and the action was on. A 10 pound striper puts a bend in a 9 wt. fly rod so we drifted off of the school until Bud and Ted could land their fish. Ted took the wheel of the boat and moved us back on the blitz. I threw a small fly called a tutti frutti and hooked up my first cast. Bud also hooked up. We continued hooking up, drifting off to land fish and getting back on the school for more hook ups until about 8:30. That’s when the sun got a little higher and the blitz was over.

That’s also when the combat fishing started. Weekend boaters and boats involved in a striper tournament hit the water. We spotted birds working fish and 10 boats revved up their engines and like a pack of hyenas raced to the fish. The first 4 - 5 boats to get there could reach the fish and other boats were blocked out. Sometimes I was one of the lucky boats to get there first and other times I was blocked out and had to look for other fish.

At 3:00 the tournament fishermen left the water and weekend boaters started clearing out. About 3:30 a blitz occurred about 1 mile offshore. I have never seen so many stripers in a blitz feeding so long. For about an hour we moved up on the stripers, two guys hooked up, drifted off to land the fish and we went back on the fish and two more guys hooked up. Fish after fish caught on fly rods. All the stripers ranged from 9 - 11 pounds.

I have read about fishing striper blitzes but until this trip never experienced it. Yes, it was a challenge...
Salmon River Trip - October 18 - 20

I won the Douglaston Salmon River trip for a day’s guided fishing at the 2009 DTU Oktoberfest with the generosity of Gary & Jason Edwards.

So off I go with Bob Albright and Gary Roulston, both DTU Board members, up to the Salmon River in New York. Both have a lot of experience fishing there.

The drive up made me miss my native Vermont, with the brilliant colors on display.

After stopping at this very nice fly shop to get our licenses in Pulaski, off we went to register for our accommodations at the Mudcreek House, which was very comfortable.

The guys went down to “the Run” that first evening with anticipation of catching some fish. Well, they got some warm-up practice and then we went to Riverhouse Restaurant in Pulaski.

Jason picked us up really early the next morning and off we went. The guys had their own guide and boat and I was with Jason. Worked for me.

I had some mental descriptions of what to expect, but still wasn’t prepared for what I saw. It was so crowded with fishermen in all manner of garb & gear and numerous drift boats and anglers — you needed a traffic cop. What a circus! Shoulder to shoulder they lined up on both sides of the river in hope of catching “the Really Big One.” Some pretty strange characters there.

So here I go with rod and fly and instruction. I’m watching as others would catch an occasional steelhead. There were a number of dead salmon along the rivers edge. Sometimes you would see someone hook into a live salmon or steelhead.

All of a sudden I feel this tug on my line and the scream of the reel and a quick “How-De-Do” and this most sizeable steelhead was on and running and off before I knew what hit me. Sort of a Slam-Bam-Thank You, Ma’am! Well, now I know what to expect, a little late.

So off we went and the guys caught some really nice steelhead and Gary caught a brown and I was able to observe what it took to bring them to the boat and on board, as is evidenced by the accompanying great photos.

That was day one and much fun. We did have a shower, but the weather was quite cooperative, although there was a front coming through and we all know what that means. The scenery was exceptional!

So here we are on day two, on a different portion of the river. That was intentional, so we wouldn’t have so many other competing fishermen & boats. Quite different from day one. I was really getting the hang of that casting technique with the heavier rod and line and bb’s. Entirely different than anything I had done before, because of drifting in the boat.

It was more difficult fishing on day two as there were so many leaves in and on the water and we all know how difficult that makes the fishing. Especially with those tiny little beads that are supposed to look like a salmon egg.

One of my favorite expressions is “If you don’t make it important to catch fish, you will have a really good time.”

I’ve talked with some people that have been up there and came home without catching any fish. So actually I was feeling pretty good.

...Rainbow that wanted to dance with me...

I was thrilled with a beautiful, sizeable Rainbow that wanted to dance with me and came on board and all the other experiences I had.

If I were to continue to do this, I would invest in a switchback spey rod that had been demonstrated to me before and with which the guys were having much success. It seemed to make a difference with the casting and the retrieve.

I’m sure that experience makes a difference here too.

I’m reminded that this is one more thing that I can cross off my “Bucket List”. I’m so very glad for the experience and the people I met and spending the days with Bob & Gary and Jason. A good time was had by all — and most importantly “nothing bad happened.”

With many thanks to all that made it happen and contributed to its success.

FAYE E. HARING

PHOTOS COURTESY BOB ALBRIGHT
FOR MORE PHOTOS, SEE OUR WEBSITE
to keep your balance, maneuver the boat into position and cast a fly line with an unfriendly wind. But this is what salt water fly fishing is all about. Wow, that was sweet!

Sunday morning we were on the water at first light, before sunup. Another stripers blitz and hook up after hook up. We fished until 8:00 AM when the blitz disappeared, headed back to the dock, packed up and headed back to Lancaster.

When I close my eyes I can still see hundreds of stripers lined up shoulder to shoulder in a feeding frenzy. I hope stripers will be there next year and the year after that. But the future of striper fishing does not look bright. People in the know say the striper population along the east coast is down to 20% of what it was 5 or 6 years ago. Fishing for big stripers on the Susquehanna Flats in the spring is over. Most of the big fish have been killed. I am told that stripers along with alewives get caught in the nets of commercial fishermen on the Chesapeake. Stripers are not returned to the water and are processed along with alewives to produce omega fish oil. I can’t document this but it saddens me to think that this is probably happening.

I am proud to be a member of Donegal TU and pleased that we are doing our part to clean up streams in Lancaster County to maintain good water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. If we do our part, perhaps the next generation will be able to experience fishing a striper blitz similar to what Ted, Bud and I just experienced.

Bob Wyble