



Mouflyer

Donegal Trout Unlimited

December 2011 Vol. 41 # 6

What's Emerging

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The November chapter meeting was held at the Hardy & Grey building just off the Centerville exit of Route 30 West. The rainy night made it hard for some to find the entrance and may have contributed to the low attendance. Steve Krewson, Director of Operations, gave us a thorough look at the history and corporate structure of Hardy & Grey. Some of us were surprised by the extensive outdoor inventory that they carry. I guess most of us thought they only carried fly fishing equipment and accessories. Steve discussed their new line of fly fishing equipment and how they are enabling their retail store managers to increase their sales in these hard financial times. One 14 wt rod made a lasting impression on us when he told us they were testing it by tying the line to a pickup truck. With the truck traveling 20 mph and the drag set as tight as possible the line broke but not the rod. If you held the rod you understood. After the meeting we were able to demo some of the newest rods and reels. Steve offered the members who were present some very nice discounts. It was a good evening!

For some, winter is a depressing time, a time for hibernation from outdoor activities. Fishing, hunting, hiking and biking go on hold until the snows melt and the world begins to wake up. But for those who fly fish the winter is a prime opportunity to clean and repair tackle and equipment, tie flies, build rods, read fly fishing books and magazines, dream of the ones that got away and do some occasional fishing.

For those who do venture out the challenges increase. Consider the case of the line freezing in the guides. This can be an opportunity for good fishing because now you can do all your fishing a rod's length away and your arm doesn't get tired casting. Another challenge is walking in snow with felt sole boots. Soon you're walking in moon boots with five inch soles. Oh

and don't sit on a bare rock with your wet neoprenes on. Guides will tell you that the best steelhead fishing is on a snowy day in winter. I can't say I have tried that yet. But even when it's cold the fish still need to eat so fishing can be a real escape to wash away the winter doldrums.

As for me, besides a fishing trip to Patagonia, I'll be skiing.

Make the most of the winter and enjoy.

WAYNE

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope." by John Buchan

Volunteer Corner

Badges for fishing Millport Conservancy in 2012 are now available. The cost remains \$20. Purchase them at a meeting for \$20 or contact me for mailing instructions. Check or money order only. Current members of Donegal TU or Millport Conservancy only. Contact Faye Haring at fayeonthefly@comcast.net or 285-2572.

DECEMBER MEETING

DECEMBER 21

FLY TYING DEMOS

FARM & HOME CENTER
ARCADIA ROAD

7:00 PM

CONTENTS

WHAT'S

EMERGING..... 1

VOLUNTEER

CORNER..... 1

CHAPTER

PLANNER..... 2

WELCOME

NEW

MEMBERS..... 2

COMMITTEE

REPORTS..... 3

SOFT

TACKLES..... 6

Chapter Planner

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DECEMBER

14th: 7 pm
21st: 7 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center

Member Fly Tying

JANUARY

11th: 7 pm
18th: 7 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center

George Daniel
Dynamic Nymphing

FEBRUARY

8th: 7 pm
15th: 7 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center

Kurt Enck
Backpacking &
Flyfishing
Shenandoah NP

Welcome New Members

Joshua Benner
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mwolfe02@comcast.net

Committee Reports

PROGRAMS

DECEMBER

The December meeting will be our traditional Member Fly Tying Demo at the Farm & Home Center on Arcadia Road. Tyers will include Tom Royer (March Brown Soft Hackle), David Shenk (Badgered To Death streamer), Mark McMaster (Waterhen Bloa), & Nancy Suloff. Meeting begins at 7 pm

JANUARY

The speaker at 7 pm on January 18 will be George Daniel, member of Fly Fishing TEAMUSA, and a two time Fly Fishing U.S. National Champion. He has competed in four World Fly Fishing Championships, sponsored by Fédération Internationale de Peche Sportive Mouche (International Sport Flyfishing Federation). His topic will be “Dynamic Nymphing”, the subject of his [upcoming book](#).

FEBRUARY

On February 15 at 7 pm, Kurt Enck will speak to us on Backpacking & Fly Fishing in the Shenandoah National Park.

BOB ALBRIGHT
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

CLIMBERS RUN PROJECT

I was concerned about the condition of our installed stream improvement devices after the storm event in September of this year. Upon inspection, we found that all the devices were still in place and were working well. However, both the Stoltzfus and Esh Farms each have one small problem that will be addressed next year.

Stoltzfus Farm - the middle section of the farm had tons of baseball-size rocks deposited from the flood causing the stream to change from an 8 foot wide and deep channel to a shallow 30 foot wide riffle. We believe the debris came from an adjoining property. Plans are in process to partner with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Agency to assess and solve the problem next summer.

Esh Farm – there is erosion with the lower 50 foot mud sill due to the high water washing ground away from behind the log device. Plans are under way to buy 40 tons of 18 to 20 inch limestone rocks and have a local contractor install them where the erosion took place. The installed rocks will be a permanent fix thus protecting the mudsill devise and the eroded bank.

On October 22 and 24 volunteers from DTU and Friends of Fishing Creek planted 450 trees along the banks of Climbers Run. They were planted to replace the trees that washed out from the September flood as well as those that died due to the cold winter.

CONOWINGO CREEK WATERSHED

I am happy to report that we will be starting 3 new projects next summer. They are the Smucker Farm with over 6,610 feet of stream restoration, the Tanglewood Golf Course with 2,950 feet of stream restoration and the Melvin Myers Farm with 2,295 feet of stream restoration. All of these projects should be completed in 2012 and will give us a total of 8 completed projects within the watershed.

For those not familiar with our watershed approach, these pilot projects were started in 2007 and were closely supervised by D.E.P. We completed a 400-foot

section on the Tanglewood Golf Course, a 280-foot section on Todd Silemperi's property, including saving a pond, a 250-foot section on Johnny Keplinger's farm and a 480-foot section on the Kreider Farm. As mentioned above, D.E.P. was very pleased with our designs and our ability to finish the projects in a timely manner. The total costs of these projects was \$129,487.00. That success led to our first ambitious project, that being the Herb Weaver farm, where we reworked over 3,710 feet of the Conowingo at a cost of \$383,140.

There are still 120 impaired sites that need to be addressed, so you can see that we are committed for the long run.

OTHER COUNTY PROJECTS

We will be working with the PA Fish & Boat Commission to work on two other streams within the county. They are on Charles Run, the main tributary to the Donegal Spring Creek and a site on Fishing Creek just below River Road in Drumore Township. The designs should be completed this winter with a completion date of next fall.

BOB KUTZ
CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN

WEBSITE

We are working on what we believe to be an exciting new idea for our site. Thanks to Matt Kofroth, we now have a map showing the several watersheds in Lancaster County. But now linked from that map are topographic maps showing exactly what stretches of stream we are presently working on, as well as those we have worked to restore in the past. What's more, a user can zoom in or out on a map, overlay it with satellite imagery and save it to, or print it from their computer. If you want to volunteer to help on a project, you'll be able to print a map showing you how to get there. We have a number of ideas on things we'd like to add to these maps, and hopefully our coding skills will prove equal to the task. Members are encouraged to take a look at what's there [so far](#).

MARK McMMASTER & WAYNE BOGGS
WEBSITE COMMITTEE

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THANK YOU, DTU, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEERS!

Receptions, Seminars and
Corporate retreats
can be held in the Mill
at Millport Conservancy.

Acorn, Heron,
White-tail and Millstone
memberships accepted.

CALL FOR INFORMATION.

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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.

Soft Tackles

In case you missed it, there was a huge fly-fishing show held at the Valley Forge Convention Center back in March.

Tom Prusak had arranged for the chapter to have a booth there, principally to hawk copies of our newly minted "Trout Tales" and to get out the word on chapter activities. Besides the book, there were also chapter hats for sale, as well as some salmon fly based jewelry that was the result of a Jim Lowe, Robbi Freisem collaboration. Also, Fred Gender had put together an amazing box of flies to be raffled off. I don't do well in crowds, and usually try to avoid them like the plague, but when Robbi offered to give me a lift, I temporarily lost my senses and said I'd go.

I told Pete Goodman that we were going to attend, which he immediately, incorrectly, assumed meant that we were volunteering to work the booth for a spell. Not wishing to see a man in his exalted chapter position weeping with despair, we just sucked it in and pulled our tour.

The place was packed, my favorite nightmare, but once safely within the womb of our booth, the leapin' creepies gradually dissolved, and I managed to hang in there for the duration.

Some folks actually enjoy this sort of thing. Fred was selling tickets for his box like a man possessed, but he did take one break to visit the other booths. He returned later to say that I just had to check out this stand that was devoted to materials used in the tying of the wet flies now known as soft hackles.

After our hitch was up, Robbi and I wandered about the place, and eventually found our way to the booth that Fred had told us about. It was all he said it was, and more. European woodcock, snipe, moorhen and jackdaw wings. Complete grouse, teal, starling and jay skins. English tying threads and floss. A fellow could drop a lot of loot in a place like that. While we were browsing, Robbi mentioned that she had heard that Sylvester Nemes had passed away. Sylvester Nemes, the man I almost killed.

Back in 1975, Nemes had published his famous little tome, *The Soft Hackled Fly*. Prior to this, I was pretty smug in the belief that I was one of the last practitioners of fishing the wet fly. Wets were for kids, and for stoking the memories of old-timers, yet here I was, catching 95% of my fish on wet Black Spiders. The pattern was merely a turn or two of black hen hackle with a body of black thread, floss, or thin black yarn tied on a size fourteen or sixteen sproat wet fly hook. But to my mind, the ultimate manifestation of this fly was Leisenring's Black Gnat. This used a starling hackle in front of a body made of crow secondary, or better yet, herl from the black tail feather of a Canada goose.

There were other excellent wingless hackle wets besides my reliable spider, though. Leisenring's Brown Hackle and Gray Hackle are still murder on trout, as are Sid Gordon's Rounder wets. The Orange Fish Hawk and Gray Hackle Yellow take care of the paler end of the spectrum.

The great thing about these patterns was that I never saw anyone else using them. They were mine, all mine. And then along came Sylvester, a freakin' Johnny Partridge-seed, merrily blabbing the joys of wet fly fishing to the world. Truly, the man had to be stopped.

I would sell my beloved .308, find my way out West, trail him to some mile-long Madison riffle. After ex-changing some pleasantries, I would wrap my bony digits around his neck and throttle the life from him. Several days hence, he would be found, floating face down, Orvis bamboo still clutched in his right hand, silk line hanging in the current. There would probably be a sixteen-inch rainbow

still attached to his Partridge and Orange, but the fiend would blab no more.

That was the plan, anyway. To give the devil his due, up until I read his book, I had never tied with partridge. Grouse, woodcock, quail, starling, hen, yes, partridge no. That's probably what saved him. In my box, the Partridge and Orange replaced the Fish Hawk, the Partridge and Yellow, the Gray Hackle, and the Pheasant Tail Spider has done things to trout that the Pheasant Tail Nymph can only dream about. Even though he no more invented these old killers than I invented ugly, I'm glad he lived to a ripe old age.

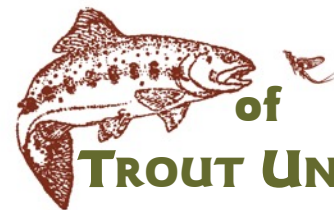
(Sylvester Nemes 1922-2011)

JIM CLARK

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Sylvester Nemes, the man I almost killed.

DONEGAL CHAPTER



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