What’s in store for Donegal TU in this New Year? First of all we have received official notification from DEP that we have been awarded $383,140 for stream restoration at the Herb Weaver farm on Conowingo Creek. We have also received the $10,000 donation from Exelon Power to fund the Fishing Creek (Valley Lea) project.

We met with a multitude of agencies in January for a final planning session prior to the submission of the permit application required for the restoration work on Climbers Run. After this initial planning session more planning work is required before permits can be applied for. This project has more agencies involved than any other project started by DTU.

Another new project is in the works with Mark McMaster and Wayne Boggs taking on the challenge of creating a new website. As you may not know Mark is the webmaster for another organization, having created and maintained that site. Besides publishing our newsletter, Mark has volunteered to create this new site. The current site, because of the way it was created years ago, has become obsolete and difficult to work with. The new site will be much easier to manage and will also save us about $400 per year. Wayne Boggs has volunteered to be the webmaster once the new site is completed and online.

We have applied to National TU for rod and reel sets which are being donated by the Sierra Club to be distributed for use in youth fly fishing programs. When we originally created the badge program with the Millport Conservancy we also agreed to start a youth fly casting instructional day. Should we receive these rods/reel sets we already have the expertise in our membership and the location to start this program.

A stream monitoring program sampling stream water periodically will be started this year with test kits purchased through the Lancaster Conservation District. Testing for nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen and turbidity will be measured with these kits and Matt Kofroth will schedule a training day for those who wish to volunteer. To make this project work we still need some volunteers.

The January meeting at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center was well-attended and the film “Rise” was shown to a full house.

Ted Downs

FEBRUARY MEETING
February 17
Dave Rothrock
Effective Nymphing
Farm & Home Center
Lancaster

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Welcome New Members

Exelon Donation

Presentation of $10,000 donation by Exelon Power to Donegal TU for Fishing Creek restoration work. From left to right are Mary Helen Marsh Director of Environmental Affairs of Exelon Power, Ted Downs, Jan Hartle President of Friends of Fishing Creek, Bob Kutz, Fran Reining of Friends of Fishing Creek and June Stumm President of Valley Lea Riding Club.

Photo courtesy Exelon Corporation
We are presently looking into future projects on the Conowingo Creek as well other streams within the County.

Bob Kutz
Conservation Chairman

Our 2010 stream improvement projects are moving along as scheduled. Both the Fishing Creek and the (2) Climbers Run projects have been designed by the Fish & Boat Commission and the raw materials, such as 100 tons of shot rock & all the necessary logs are now on site. The start date will be mid summer. Some of our members have mentioned that they are interested in volunteering their time to help build the devices. I will publish the exact dates as they become available.

We will be having an exciting meeting on Jan. 21st concerning Climbers Run. The Stoltzfus Farm will need the Run relocated in 2 places. Fallen trees have caused the stream to vacate its banks & has now eroded an adjacent field. In order to relocate the stream to its original stream bank, we need the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to “OK” our new relocation plan as well as the consent of the PA DEP, the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service & the Lancaster County Conservation District. This will be a first for DTU where we partner with all these organizations. We see this type of “Patterning” as a new tool to use as we move forward with our future projects.

MORE GOOD NEWS
The PA Dept. of Environmental Protection just officially notified us that we did, in fact, receive a $385,000 grant to work on the Herb Weaver farm, the worst site within the Conowingo Creek Watershed. We will be rebuilding 1 mile of stream bank as well as 900 ft of 2 tributary streams. Rettew Associates will be our design & construction partner on this section of the stream. Rettew reports that the design is now finished & that they are applying for the proper permits. Work should be started in July & finished in September. Again, volunteers will be needed to help plant trees as well as seeding warm season grasses.
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Fly Tackle - The Rod

The tackle for trout fly-fishing has been developed to a point of excellence where further improvement, save in unimportant details, seems impossible. The rods, reels, lines, and flies now specially made for the fly-caster are certainly things of beauty and, if carefully treated, practically permanent joys. The matter of tackle selection for brook trout flyfishing is a very simple affair to the man who knows. But the man who does not know is quite capable of going to considerable expense for a museum of tackle curiosities; the collective intent of which would be difficult to determine.

Herein it will be possible to state only with the utmost brevity compatible with clearness the essential tools and tackle of the fly-caster. For a more detailed treatise on fly-tackle and general equipment the reader is referred to “Fishing Kits and Equipment” by the present writer. Many years of stream use and experiment have shown that only certain tools are suited to effective and satisfactory and sportsmanlike fly-casting. In the following the suitability of the outfit to stream wading and fly-fishing in an average trout stream is primarily considered.

To the absolute exclusion of every other material the fly-rod should be of split-bamboo. The split-cane rod alone has the necessary speed and resilience which are imperative for effective and comfortable casting and fly-fishing. Solid wood rods of either lancewood, greenheart, or bethabara are very much slower in action than the split-bamboo, and the steel rod is not at all to be considered. It should be said, however, that in the cheaper grades the split-bamboo rod is inferior to the solid wood rod of equal price. The angler should select a fly-rod of either medium or, if the purse is a fairly long one, the very best grade. A good fly-rod is worth every cent you pay for it - and more; also it should be said that good tackle of any sort is not only its own reward but is absolutely essential if you would have the best of the sport. Shoddy tackle conduces to careless work on the stream and consequently to poor success. On the other hand, good tackle tends to interest one in its proper handling, both in casting and also in fishing the flies, and as a result the angler finds his interest and success increasing rather than otherwise.

Choice must be made between the six-strip and eight-strip rods, the split-bamboo rod being made from triangular strips - usually six or eight - rent from the natural cane and cemented and bound together. Expert opinion favors the six-strip fly-rod.

If the angler is to have but one rod probably ten feet is the best length, but any length from nine to ten feet is generally satisfactory. It depends a great deal upon the character of the waters to be fished. For small brooks the shorter rod is preferable, but for big, rough streams where long casting must be done and large trout handled in swift water the ten-foot rod is best.

Be sure to have the ferrules and reel-seat of the rod of German silver. This material is stronger, cleaner, and more serviceable than nickeled brass. The hand-grasp should be of the sort known in the tackle trade as “solid cork,” not a mere sheathing of composition-cork over a wooden form. For fly-casting the reel-seat must be below the handgrasp. The guides of the rod should by all means be of the pattern known as English “snake” guides, and their material should be steel or German silver, the former being most suitable because the line will not wear grooves in them as in the softer German silver.

Select a rod that bends equally from handgrasp to tip-end, one that balances well - is not either tip or butt heavy - and is not too limber or whippy. The whippy rod is a poor caster and one with which it is difficult to hook and play a fish properly. Fly-rods from nine to ten feet in length should weigh from five to six and a quarter ounces.

Samuel G. Camp
The Fine Art of Fishing
1911

Consider a Change

Once again, members are urged to consider receiving their Mayflyer via the internet rather than Her Majesty’s Royal Mail. While no doubt your postal delivery person merits gainful employment, the fact is that printing and mailing the Mayflyer is a very expensive proposition, consuming a significant portion of DTU’s funds. Many members may not realize that DTU receives none of the membership fee you pay to Trout Unlimited, relying instead on our fund-raising activities to support our streamwork and the Mayflyer. Knowing that, wouldn’t you rather see that money spent on a trout stream?

You can easily switch to the “online” version of the Mayflyer by simply sending an email to Wayne Boggs @ greygost@ptd.net and asking him to move you to the email list. You’ll then receive an email every time an issue is posted to the website, giving you the link, and you can download a copy at your convenience. The “online” version is in full color, is posted a week or more before the hardcopy version, and trust me, your postal carrier will still have a job delivering all that junk mail.

Mark McMaster
Editor
Once again it’s time to think Spring. Mark your calendars for March 27. This year we celebrate our 31st Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet, held once again at the Lancaster Host Resort. Next to receiving a state grant, this is our largest fundraiser of the year. Last year, with the help of our banquet donors, we raised over $30,000 in that one night for DTU. This money is well-spent on our local streams, along with educational support in our area schools.

Doors open at 4:30 pm and dinner will be at approximately 6:30 pm. Dinner this year will be a large buffet with fresh bread, your choice of 3 salads, 3 meats, 3 sides, dessert, coffee, tea and drink. WOW! all for the same price as we had last year. Thirty dollars each or you can purchase a Gold Table for $400 which will get you front row seating, extra goodies and tickets in your gift bag and a chance to win $100 cash.

The door prizes went over so well last year, we thought we would do it again this year. The ticket for the door prize table will be in your seating packet as you come in and register. Tickets will be pulled throughout the night. There will be many items on the table and lots of chances to win for everyone.

Buckets: this year we have decided to do 10 buckets. You buy the tickets in strips and disburse them in any bucket you would like to win. The more tickets you buy and throw in a bucket you would like, the better your chances. So buy those tickets.

Back again from last year are our Theme Baskets. These extra large baskets are filled full of items that have to do with the theme on the basket. This will be a silent bid. You will use your bid number to bid on the basket or baskets you would like to have and write in the amount you would be willing to pay for that basket. The same as the silent auction, the starting bid will be established with reasonable increments.

Here is a short list of some of the items we have so far.
- Hunting trip for Turkey by Rick Groff
- All inclusive Trophy Turkey Hunt for Two, 3 days and 3 nights.
- Custom Rod built by Chuck Elmer.
- Bid on Baskets with over $200 worth of items in each one.
- CFR Rod and Reel.
- Vocal Auction Items such as: Eagles Tickets, Fishing Trips, Vacation Condo Packages, Gas Grills, Ladies Jewelry, Dinners & Shows, Furniture, Rods & Reels.

- Over 100 Silent Auction items such as Hand-tied flies, Prints, Dishes, Books, Life vests, more Jewelry, Rods, Reels.
- Door Prizes all night long.

The rest of the evening will be filled with plenty of entertainment. This year again we brought in two gentlemen playing acoustical guitars throughout the evening with music from the 60’s to the 90’s. Along with all the vocal action, silent action and the many raffles throughout the room, we will be drawing the winners for the $1000 Super Fund ticket at the end of the evening. These are the tickets you will receive with your registration form. If you would like more, please call or e-mail me and I will send them out to you. Phone: 664-2332 (home) or 341-1581 (cell). Email: flyguy66@ptd.net

All your info and registration form will be in the mail soon, or you can download your Registration form from our website. Remember to save the date and bring a friend for a night of fun. Hope to see you there,

Dan Brandt
Banquet Chairman
The following are recent stream projects which DTU has completed, or is presently planning. List prepared by Bob Kutz for a report submitted to TU national. A list to be proud of.

1. Swarr Run — $6,000
   Riparian Fencing, In-stream Structures and Tree planting
   Partners: Lancaster Conservation District
   Date: 2004

2. Mill Creek, — $4,000
   Riparian Fencing, In-stream Structures & Tree planting
   Partners: U.S. Fish & Wildlife & Lancaster Conservation District
   Date: 2006

3. Shearers Run — $6,000
   In-stream structures
   Date: 2006

4. Fishing Creek — $3,000
   In-stream structures, cattle crossings, & tree planting
   Partner: Friends of Fishing Creek
   Date 2007

5. Little Conestoga — $3,000
   Tree Planting
   Partners: Little Conestoga Watershed Association & Lancaster Conservation District
   Date 2005

6. Little Conestoga — $10,500
   In-stream Structures & Tree Planting
   Partners: PA Fish & Boat Commission
   Date, 2007

7. Segloch/Furnace Run — $42,000
   In-stream Structures & Tree Planting
   Partners: PA Turnpike Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission & Lancaster Conservation District
   Date: 2007

8. 8. Lititz Run- Millport Conservancy — $6,000
    In-stream Structures & Tree planting
    Partners: Lititz Watershed Association & Lancaster Conservation District
    Date: 2008

9. Donegal Spring Creek — $13,500
    In-stream Structures & tree Planting
    Partners: PA Fish & Boat Commission., & Donegal Fish & Conservation Association
    Date: 2008

10. 10 Liititz Run- Millport Conservancy — $10,000
    In-stream Structures & Tree Planting
    Partners: PA Fish & Boat Commission & Lititz Watershed Association
    Date: 2009

11. 11 Liititz Run-Banta Farm — $180,000
    Redesign of stream, Removal of 9,000 Cubic yards of legacy soil, In-stream structures & plant trees (CREP)
    Partners: EPA 319 Grant & Lancaster Conservation District
    Date: 2004

12. 12 Liititz Run-Riparian Park — $7,000
    In-stream Structures & Plant trees
    Partners: PA Fish & Boat Commission & PA Fish & Boat Commission
    Date: 2008

2010 PROJECTS

1. Climbers Run Amish Farms (2) farms — $35,000
   Redesign of abraded stream, In-stream Structures, Cattle Crossings, Fencing & Tree planting.
   Partners: U.S. Corp of Engineers, PA DEP, PA Fish & Boat Commission. & Friends of Fishing Creek
   Completion date: August 2010

2. Fishing Creek-Valley Lea Horse Center — $14,000
   In-stream Structures & tree planting
   Partners: PA Fish & Boat Commission. & Friends of Fishing Creek
   Completion Date: July, 2010

3. Conowingo Creek — $385,000
   In-stream Structures, Fencing & Tree planting along one half mile on stream.
   Partners, U.S. EPA (319 Grant)
   Completion date: Sept. 2010

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Thought for the Day

One drawback of tying very accurate flies: Bats, dragonflies, swallows, and ducks find them just as attractive as trout do. (Of these, ducks put up the best fight and make the longest runs.)

Lloyd Gonzales
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)