What’s Emerging

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Are we there yet?

If you’ve noticed, the sun is setting a little later each day. According to the calendar we’re about halfway through Winter. Or for a brighter outlook, we’re halfway to Spring! Chapter activities are minimal this time of year but that doesn’t mean we aren’t planning for the future. Soon our calendar will be filled with activities that should appeal to everyone.

There are two more Fly Tying Gatherings planned, February 11 and March 11 at the Staffers grocery store on Lititz Pike. That’s two more times to join the group and learn about a new fly, a new place to fish, or even how to tie your first fly.

Lydia Martin, chapter member and Director of Education at the Lancaster County Conservancy, is scheduling work days on Climbers Run Nature Preserve (226 Frogtown Rd, Pequea) on Feb. 4 (9 - Noon), Feb. 11 (9 - 1), March 4 (9 - 1).

We’ll also be working on Fishing Creek removing invasives March 25 (9 - 1). Contact Greg Wilson (gregsfish@gmail.com) if you can help.

March may start as a lamb or a lion but for DTU the opportunities for engagement move into high gear. We start with the Lancaster Fly Fishing Show on March 4 & 5. We will have our usual table outside the show arena at the Convention Center. Contact Wayne Boggs if you would like to spend some time at our table extolling the virtues of TU and DTU in particular. If you can’t volunteer, then be sure to stop by and say “Hi” to those of us who are there.

Next we move on to the Lititz Run Clean Up Day on Saturday, March 18. Various groups cover different parts of the stream. DTU meets at Wetlands Farm above Millport Conservancy. See Greg Wilson for the particulars. After all your hard work on Lititz Run, stop by the Donegal Fish and Conservation Association Show at Donegal High School. I’m told you can pick up lunch while supporting another great organization. And if that’s not enough for you, Garry Longenecker should be waking up our nursery soon for the new growing season.

And last on my list for this message is the DTU Spring Fundraiser, April 1, at Spooky Nook. We’ve changed the name from Banquet to Fundraiser because...
Welcome New Members

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Images of mayflies in this publication are based on photographs from Jason Neuswanger (www.trouttrest.com), whose rights, contribution to our knowledge of streamlife, and photographic skills are gratefully acknowledged.
There are many different approaches to the steam restoration work we do. Skelly & Loy are environmental restoration specialists who approach the job with the goal of restoring stability to a stream system. They believe this “realize(s) the benefits of minimized scour while maintaining natural sediment transport, reduced flooding potential, reduced property loss and damage, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, and improved stream stability.” Join us at the Farm & Home Center on the 15th for an interesting presentation on their theories & methods.

Shannon White is a Penn State graduate student studying the life of brook trout in PA’s streams. Among other things, she’s learning how brook trout populations differ, why they differ, what that can mean to their survival. Come to the meeting on March 15 when she’ll share her methods & findings with us.

We’d scheduled Tom Gilmore to speak at our OctoberFest about his newly-released book “Fly Fisher’s Guide to Pennsylvania,” but a sudden illness prevented him from speaking at that meeting. We’ve rescheduled this author of several books on fly fishing in the northeast to address us at the Farm & Home Center on the 19th. By then all of us will be looking for tips on new and favorite streams, so join us and get some ideas on new waters to explore.

Mark Metzler was going to look at 4 farms upstream of the Lloyd Project, the stream is relatively small, may be mostly buffer work and CREP if they will enroll. That would be all of the headwaters of this tributary.

Mark Metzler is also working on a project design for Phillips, this is a project downstream of the Silimperi Project from several years ago. The design has been funded.

USF&W has hit some snags on the design and permitting of the Metzler Project, due to permitting and wetland issues. Hopefully they can get these resolved and installed this Summer.

We are about half funded for the Camp Andrews Project. This is about a $90,000 project so we are trying to secure the balance of the funds needed. This site is a great project due to the amount of legacy sediment washing downstream. It is directly upstream of the Lancaster Conservancy North Fishing Creek Preserve.

We are also hoping to install our first project on Peters Creek this summer. This is about a $60,000 job, and we are pretty close to fully funded on this one. It will be on a publicly-accessible stretch of stream owned by Exelon.

DTU has been asked to support and assist as needed on a large Growing Greener Grant with Stroud Water Research, along with The Alliance for the Bay. This is a large project targeting eastern Lancaster County, with many headwater streams that may have trout potential, including the upper Pequea, upper Conestoga, Octoraro etc. The grant will not be awarded for about a year, but may come with many great opportunities to make some positive impacts in the plain community.
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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Rohrerstown, PA 17603
Thirty-seven chapter members and guests gathered for our annual fly tying clinic on December 14. Our own Derek Eberly led off with a very “buggy looking” scud that should work well anywhere. Rick Purnell provided instruction on sculpins. Todd Peters demonstrated the ever charming wet fly while John Gooderham created a new fly just for our meeting. It was called a screaming double streamer. The large hook comes from Denmark. Two streamers can be tied to this hook so it appears that a group of bait fish are moving through the water. John attached a clear plastic skull with glue. Then he added magnetic eyes that were sized for this head.

The highlight of the meeting was hearing from Ayden Thomas and Derek Heisey. DTU sponsored these young men for the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp this past June. Derek and Adyen attended one of our youth fly fishing clinics. After hearing about Rivers Camp, they applied, and were accepted. Through their Power Point presentation, they told us about the classes they took, what made the greatest impression, the friends they made, and of course their trophy fish pictures. Both answered questions from our members and were very appreciative for this opportunity to learn more about the sport of fly fishing and the conservation goals we all support.

Winter Fly Tying

Our winter fly tying gatherings will continue on the second Saturday in February & March, weather permitting. Join us from 9 am - 1 pm, or as long as you’d like, in the meeting room at the rear of aisle 16 at Stauffers of Kissel Hill grocery 1050 Lititz Pike. The public is welcome, and you don’t have to be a tyer yourself, just bring a sense of humor and some lies about fishing. Lessons in the basics of the dark arts can be arranged with prior notice. Just email us at flytyers@donegaltu.org.
Our Veterans Initiative will hold a Kickoff event for their 2017 activities on Saturday, April 8 from 8 am ‘til Noon at Millport Conservancy.

This event is free and open to all veterans and their families. Those signing up for the program will get a free 1-year membership to Trout Unlimited. This program will include an introduction to all the aspects of fly fishing, including: the proper fly fishing equipment and setup, flies and hatches on local trout streams, hands-on fly rod casting instruction, and techniques for catching trout in our local streams.

The group meets every 2 weeks for instruction and fishing. Equipment and supplies are provided. The Leadership Team will provide instruction and stream-side guidance.

A Veterans Mobile Outreach van will be at the Kickoff event.

If interested, please registering Bill Nolan at wnolandtu@gmail.com, or 717-875-7426. Visit our chapter Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DonegalTroutUnlimited/

Mark McMaster

New Members

One new member attended the chapter meeting on December 14, at the Farm and Home Center. Pictured here left to right are: Joy McMaster, President, Joe Gulick, and Membership Chairman Fran McElhinney.

Then at the January meeting another 7 new members attended their first meeting. Left to right they are Rich Felton, Jeff Chrisey, Andrew Coco, Tom Regan, Eric Fisher, Casey Clugston, Michael Garrigan and Andrew Myers. We’re happy to say there wasn’t room for Membership Chairman Fran McElhinney to crowd into the photo.

Photos courtesy Mark McMaster
January Meeting

Josh Miller, a member of the US Fly Fishing Team gave a terrific presentation to 65 members and guests of the chapter on January 18. His topic was winter small stream nymphing tactics and he began with an inspiring video as he and friends netted, and lost a few, beautiful trout.

In the Winter, Josh suggested 3 methods of fishing were most likely to produce results.

- Tight line nymphing with a thin diameter #3 weight double-tapered or level line and long 18’ leader works because winter trout are lying deep, where the water is slow and they are reluctant to move far for feed. A heavy dropper fly anchors his rig to the bottom and keeps the point fly down as well. From there he either follows the fly with the line directly below his rod tip, or keeps the rod still as it passes him and allows the fly to pendulum upwards below him.

- By using a dry & dropper, again with a heavy dropper, he is able to suspend his nymph directly below his high-floating dry.

- Finally when he finds trout willing to chase, he tosses a streamer their way, usually one imitating a bottom-dwelling sculpin. He has a lot of follows with this technique, but also gets his largest fish.

Each of these techniques was very well illustrated with videos taken earlier this Winter. Josh mostly fishes a 10-11’ rod with a soft tip, and is adept at netting his fish very rapidly, often in midair.

Lots of questions were asked and answered as the group learned the difference between a sighter and an indicator, the advantage conferred by a longer rod, and why he uses weighted flies rather than split shot.

Before Josh’s presentation, several committee chairs of the chapter gave the members an overview of their plans for 2017. Ours is a very active chapter, and members are encouraged to volunteer to help in the Nursery, plant trees along our stream projects, work with our veterans in the Veteran’s Initiative, or the youth at our youth clinics.

January Meeting

They’ve Hatched!

DTU member Becky Whitson’s last report in early December was that her class’s eggs were hatching. Shown here are alevins # 2 & 3.

Mark McMaster
Photo courtesy Becky Whitson

January Meeting

cause that is our primary goal for this event. This is where we garner the funds that provide the monthly programs, TIC equipment, Youth, Women’s and Veterans events, and support our conservation efforts. Patric Nephin and his committee have been working since October to provide you with a new and exciting evening. So, get your registration in now and take advantage of the Early Bird pricing.

Our event list continues into April. Always check the website for the latest information. Thank you for being a part of the DTU community and look for the first sign on Spring, no matter what the groundhog predicts.

Mark McMaster

President, continued
On Saturday, April 1, DTU will hold its 38th annual Spring Fundraiser at Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Manheim. Doors will open at 4:30 pm, with Dinner served from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. As usual there will be a cash bar. The emphasis will be on fun & fundraising, with far fewer speeches & presentations.

Silent auction items will be available for bidding from 4:30 until 6:00. A vocal auction will be conducted by Keller Brothers of Manheim, beginning at 6:30, followed by Coffee & Dessert at 7:30.

Rather than the usual booklet filled with sponsor’s ads, we will focus instead on securing sponsors at $100, $250, $500, and $1000 levels. Signage for these sponsors will be on your bidding card and prominently around the room, as well as featured on our website, the Mayflyer, and our Facebook page. If you know of anyone or any business that might be interested in sponsorship, please contact our Chairman, Patric Nephin at p.nephin@donegaltu.org.

Check-in and Check-out will be handled by the auctioneers, greatly speeding the process for everyone.

Prices remain the same as last year, at $45 & $55 per person, but with a $5 discount for early registration (by February 15). Registration deadline is March 19.

We think this will be an exciting new way to conduct our Fundraiser and encourage all our members to attend, as well as bringing friends & family. You need not be a member of DTU to attend this function. You should have received your packet with registration form and Superfund tickets by the time you read this. If more tickets are needed, contact Patric Nephin as above.

We hope you’ll join us at this, our biggest fundraiser of the year. The funds raised will go to supporting our projects, as well as the many other activities of your chapter.

MARK MCMASTER

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**Millport Badges**

Badges to fish Lititz Run on the Conservancy in 2017 are now available to members of DTU or Millport Conservancy. Badges are priced at $20 at a meeting or DTU function, $22.50 if they need to be mailed. Contact Tom Hall (phallcat@comcast.net) or Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Attn: Millport Button Sales, PO Box 8001, Lancaster, PA 17604 to request a badge. Please provide proof of your membership.
Carol & Dennis Blevins

In 2010 Carol and Dennis Blevins were looking for an opportunity to volunteer their time in an outdoor activity. They thought they would like to do something related to water as both of their daughters were working in water related professions. One daughter is a hydrogeologist. In addition they both loved to fish. Dennis is a long time Life Member of Trout Unlimited.

It was about that the same time that Bob Kutz, Chapter Conservation Co-Chairman, was looking for volunteers to compliment the work that Garland Gingrich was doing on Climbers Run. Namely taking monthly water samples on Conowingo Creek.

And the rest as they say is history.

Since then Carol and Dennis have made monthly trips from their home in Quarryville to the Conestoga Creek, taken water samples and meticulously recorded their findings when they returned home. That is 2 volunteers, working 4 hours every month for 6 years.

Over 576 volunteer hours!

Is it any wonder why Bob nominated them for a 2016 Donegal Trout Unlimited Volunteer Award and the Board of Directors unanimously approved his nomination!

Carol and Dennis are outstanding examples of what being a volunteer truly means. They are true assets to our Chapter and we value their many contributions.

Congratulations Carol and Dennis!

Jim Wellendorf

Bill Nolan

Each year the board recognizes at our October meeting, chapter members who are integral to our various programs. This past year, I nominated Bill Nolan for his work with our Veterans Initiative. Bill has been involved with the program from the beginning. This past year he took on the leadership role. Bill and his group of novice fly fishermen explored a variety of local waters in our general area so that they could sample different fishing challenges and improve their technique.

Bill is very encouraging, enthusiastic, and always looking for new ways to improve the program. Bill is planning a Kickoff event for 2017 on April 8th at Millport Conservancy to spread the word to more veterans in our community. I feel Bill is the heart and soul of our Veterans Service Program and deserving of our thanks and recognition.

Joy McMaster
Fly fishing guides to Pennsylvania are nothing new. The oldest in my collection is Mike Sanja’s from 1988, but there were probably some prior to his. Still it has been since 2000 what many of us consider the best of the lot, Dwight Landis’ “Trout Streams of PA” was last updated. Streams, hatches and pressure have changed a lot in those 17 years.

So it was nice to see two new books on the subject emerge within a few months of each other recently. Tom Gilmore’s “Flyfisher’s Guide to Pennsylvania” was first out of the gate late last Fall, and now “Keystone Fly Fishing,” by several authors has joined it.

Both of course now include more modern maps than Landis (or Meck or Dave Wolf for that matter), along with GPS coordinates, and the photography in both is outstanding.

Gilmore’s book is the successor to Dave Wolf’s 1999 book, with the same title and from the same publisher. It covers 160 streams, a few more than Wolf, with hatch information, a general discussion of the stream as well as any special segments, access directions, a rating for the stream, tackle and fly suggestions for many, as well as any nearby fly shops. As most of these guides, the state is sorted by region, with a map overview of all the streams in the region.

“Keystone Fly Fishing” takes a distinctly different approach to this concept, with a selected author from each region covering the streams they know best. It also covers smallmouth, steelhead, muskies and other species where appropriate. In doing so it also covers far more streams, 240 in all.

As in Gilmore’s book, access points, special regs stretches & nearby shops are covered. The general discussion of each stream strikes me as more informative, possibly because each author knows the water better. Many of the authors also cite local people with greater knowledge, especially with regard to hatches, fly selection or fish populations. This isn’t nearly as overdone or irritating as it was in Meck’s book (last revised in 1999). While the photos in Gilmore’s book are very nicely done, it’s obvious from the first that this book has been done by the same publisher as Mike Heck’s superb “Spring Creek Strategies.” Almost every photo of a stream makes you want to visit it as soon as possible.

Only time will tell if either of these will replace my heavily-annotated copy of Landis, but certainly the updated information is welcome. Both books list at $29.95. I’m a book freak, so I had to add both to my library, but if you need to buy new waders or another rod and can only spring for one, my choice would be “Keystone Fly Fishing.”

Mark McMaster
Climbers Run Volunteer Work Days

Saturdays, February 4 & 11, 2017
9 a.m. - Noon meet at the Barn*

*Susquehanna Riverlands Research & Education Center
226 Frogtown Road, Pequea PA 17565

Reminders:
- Dress for working outdoors & wear good footwear!
- Bring favorite tools: pruners & loppers
- Wear gloves as we may be handling invasive species
- Snacks & drinks provided; bring a lunch for noon if staying to hike

TARGET AREAS: fix up tree shelters, check plantings along Climbers Run, invasive species management

Please RSVP if volunteering to help by February 2, 2017 to:
Lydia Martin at lmartin@lancasterconservancy.org; 717-475-3964
or Greg Wilson, gregsfish@gmail.com; 717-587-8351
Conservation Chairmen Bob Kutz & Greg Wilson led a group of DTU members, Lancaster Conservancy members and others on a tour of our current and pending projects in the southern end of the County on December 22. Most impressive was the work the US Fish & Wildlife crew were doing on Fishing Creek where it runs through Drumore Township Park.

They had constructed large log vanes held together by lengths of rebar. These were subsequently placed in trenches dug in the streambed at an angle to divert high water events back toward the center of the stream. Once positioned, large rocks and stainless steel cables secured the logs in place and they were then backfilled with soil and more rocks. Once completed, only the very top of the uppermost log was visible. It will be interesting to see the effect of these devices following some high water events.

In addition, we visited previous and future sites up and downstream from the Park, including Camp Andrews, where we are hoping to begin work this year.

Photos courtesy Bob Kutz & Mark McMaster
Donegal Trout Unlimited.

Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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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)