



Mayflyer

Donegal Trout Unlimited

June 2011 Vol. 41 # 3

What's Emerging

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FISHING AT LAST! Finally I had an opportunity to fish between rain storms and high-water. Tom Hall and I went to Penns Creek and fished from Weikert upstream to Cherry Run. The prognosticators were predicting rain all weekend but we lucked out. No rain until mid-Sunday morning and then sun for the rest of the day. Friday evening was slow for me except for one big sucker. No, not me, a fish. There were a lot of March browns in the air but none on the water.

Saturday was better as we caught some fish but more importantly enjoyed the day (that's what we always say when the fishing is slow). With clouds covering the sky there was a degree of solitude and peacefulness that reminded me of why I love to fish. An occasional fisherman or fish on would break the mood but the calming feelings soon returned. I had an unexpected catch. A large crayfish had grabbed my March brown nymph and I had to use my hemostat to wrestle the fly away from him. But Tom topped my story. He hooked a large stonefly larva with his imitation stone fly. What are the chances? The creek was about a foot higher than normal and with the layer of assorted slippery rocks on the bottom I was forced to use a wading staff.

We fished until dark and were anxiously anticipating supper at the Sportsman's Club only to find that they closed the buffet at 8:00. So we settled for bar food and mega calories. They had closed their grill at 8:00 also.

Mid afternoon on both Saturday and Sunday fish fed sporadically and were catchable on March browns. This particular stretch has many accesses to the stream. Most are on private land but the lanes are posted 'walk-in access only'. As always the fishing was great but the catching was slow.

If you didn't make the May chapter meeting at Tanglewood Golf Course you missed a great meal and an outstanding walking tour on the Herb Weaver project in the Conowingo watershed. Bob Kutz, our conservation chair, hosted the tour. Bob did an outstanding job of pointing out the devices and describing why they were chosen for the specific spot and how they worked to enhance the stream.

Hope to see you at the June picnic at Millport.

WAYNE BOGGS

"Our tradition is that of the first man who sneaked away to the creek when the tribe did not really need fish". Roderick Haig-Brown

Volunteer Corner

Buttons are still available for fishing Millport Conservancy in 2011. 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 Haering at fayeonthefly@comcast.net or 285-2572.

Lancaster County Sportsmen for Youth Field Day will be held Saturday, June 4, 2011 at the [Milton Grove Sportsmen's Club](#). Several volunteers have already signed up but more would be appreciated.

The Lancaster County Big Brothers/Big Sisters event will be held August 28. This is always a fun event for the volunteers as well as the participants. Watch the website for further details as the date approaches.

FAYE E. HAERING,
DTU VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

JUNE MEETING
JUNE 15
PICNIC
MILLPORT CONSERVANCY
6:00 PM

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Chapter Planner

DTU OFFICERS & BOARD

JUNE

8th: 7 pm
15th: 6 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Millport Conservancy

Summer Picnic

JULY

13th: 7 pm
20th: 6 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Farm & Home Center

No Meeting

AUGUST

10th: 7 pm
17th: 6 pm

Board Meeting
Chapter Meeting

Millport Conservancy
Bob Bachman's

Summer Picnic

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Committee Reports

PROGRAMS

JUNE 15

Annual Chapter Picnic at Millport Conservancy

JULY 20

No Meeting in July

AUGUST 18

Picnic at Bob Bachman's on Blue Lake. Directions in the August Mayflyer.

SEPTEMBER 21

David Sewak, PATU's Marcellus Shale Field Organizer will give us an update on Marcellus drilling in PA

BOB ALBRIGHT
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

CONSERVATION

There is good news on the conservation front. First, let me tell you about the Conowingo Creek watershed. Our May chapter meeting, held at the Tanglewood Golf Course, included a tour of the Herb Weaver site on May 18th.

This was the first time that a lot of members saw, first-hand, the magnitude of the completed site. We rebuilt over 3,300 feet of stream on two tributaries as well as the main stream. High water events caused some scouring along the banks because some on the grass seed did not germinate but we will reseed in a few weeks. Minor repairs will also be accomplished when we finally get some relief from the rain. Also, Mark Metzler reports that our next two projects, they being the Smucker Farm as well as the Tanglewood Golf Course site, are well on their way as far as completing the design. He reports that he will be able to apply for the Smucker permit within weeks. Note that this site is much longer than the Weaver Farm as we will have over a mile of stream to rebuild on this Amish farm. The design and permitting process for the Golf Course will follow shortly.

There are 4 additional sites that are in various degrees of starting. The Abner Lapp farm needs manure storage as well as storm water runoff help. We have contacted a company called Team Ag to help us with these problems. The design phase has already started. The PA Fish & Boat Commission will design the Melvin Myers farm project, just downstream from the Herb Weaver site along Silver Spring Road. This will be our first experience with working with the PA Fish & Boat Commission on a Conowingo site. Mr. Myers has signed a commitment letter to allow us on his property to do the design. The design will be worked on this summer and we expect to start construction in 2012. There are two other farms located along Maxwell Road that will be in next year's plans. We have visited with the landowners & they are anxious for us to get started. We will start their projects next year.

Our Climbers Run project made it through the winter in good shape. There were some "High Water Events" but the structures held up there well. Also, we estimate that the trees had an 80% survival rate. The dead trees will be replaced this fall.

Another new project is scheduled for the Verna Stoltzfus farm on Charles Run. Charles Run is the main tributary of the Donegal Springs Creek. The stream was recommended to DTU as a viable project by Matt Kofroff who is Lancaster County's Watershed Specialist. We invited the PA Fish & Boat Commission to look at the stream in early May. They felt that this will be a good

project for DTU and will start their design this fall. Final construction is scheduled for July 2012.

BOB KUTZ
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

VOLUNTEERS

Without our volunteers, DTU would have a problem accomplishing its goals and purpose, whether it be our conservation projects, stream cleanups and stocking fish, or our annual events that include the Fly on the Run Tournament, Youth Field Day and Special Olympics Derby. Also our new First Cast program. All of these require manpower and lots of it.

We recently had the Fly on the Run this May 18-19th. That called for a number of volunteers to participate as stream guides and help with the fish stocking and being a fly tyer and casting instructor.

I would like to give credit where credit is due, because we can't do it without all of you.

Stream Guides for May 18th and 19th were:

Tom Hall, Dennis Dougherty, Kevin Hirst, Chuck Elmer, Brian Trussell, Scott Trefny, Bill Billett, Bill Henry, Ned Bushong, Troy Martin, Dave Shenk, Moirajeanne Fitzgerald, Mark McMaster, Joy McMaster.

Well, in order to have a fishing tournament we need some fish. So here are the people that made it possible to help stock the fish Tuesday, May 17th: Fish were provided by the Fly on the Run.

Larry Zimmerman, Jack Lewicki, Jack Gilbert, Jim Stephens, Jim Wellendorf, Dennis Dougherty, Tom Hall, Dave Boomer, Tom McClain,

John Vreeland and some who didn't sign up but showed up or didn't and all were wet as the fish. Please note the photos included of this and the FOTR event.

Now we're up to June and we have the Youth Field Day Event, held at Milton Grove Sportsmen's Club in E-Town. Wonderful event for kids. We have more people who are willing to come out and help us with this event:

Kevin Fausey who heads this up and Tom Hall, Garry Longenecker, Jim Wellendorf, Matt Bazella, Brian Trussell, Glen Mattox, Tom McClain, Brett Long (Doc Fritchey Chapter), Tom Royer, and Loren Bidler

What's really special here is the number of people that come out to help a family member or friend.

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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
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CALL FOR INFORMATION.

Lynn W. Myers, Executive Director
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Please contact Glen Nephin at gnephin@ptd.net or 271-9208.

Stocking for fly on the Run



PHOTOS COURTESY
JIM WELLENDOFF



An Encounter on the Run

I could give a beginning fly-fisherman my rods, reels and flies and this would truly be a great gift. The monetary value of these items is undeniable but the worth of these “tools of the craft” can be far surpassed in just one random act.

Today was the Fly On The Run tournament on Lititz Run. I was asked to be a stream guide for this event because of the need for knowledgeable and experienced fly-fisherman to oversee beginner anglers on the water. It was felt that my intimate studies and experiences on this stream could come in very handy.

The last time I participated in this event, there were plenty of kids fishing the tournament. I was hoping to show a few “up and coming” young fly anglers some of the tricks I have to offer in my bag. This was not to be this year because not one child was in the event.

The morning proved tiresome because I was paired up with 8 very experienced fly-fisherman that needed no guidance. They put the hammer on the fresh-stocked fish and did very well. After lunch it began to downpour as we were trucked out to the next beats.

After about an hour, I came across one lone older fisherman. I asked him how he was doing and he replied “You know, not too good.” There was a tone in his voice that told me it wasn’t just because the fishing was poor for him. So I dug a bit deeper. This older man explained to me that he joined the tournament to fish with some friends and have fun. When the rain came his 3 friends left the tournament and he was a one man team. He also lives 3 hours away and made the trip. To make things worse, he also was trying fly-fishing for the first time in remembrance of his late father who was a diehard fly-fisherman. He showed me his equipment which was a rod that had to be 90 years old or so and a automatic antique fly reel that mounted sideways on the rod. Through our brief conversation I come to find out this man was 77 years old and really had no idea where to begin.

I said, “If I may ...” First I fixed his 3 ft leader to be around 8 ft w/ tippet. I tied on a white bugger that was about 3 inches in length and showed him how I would fish it and a few casts to make his life easier.

He told me he appreciated all I was doing but he really had no expectation of winning the tournament since he was a one man show. So I asked him, “What do you plan on getting out of this then?” He said, “I just want to have fun.” “Follow me,” I said.

We left the tournament area and I took him to a hole I know that holds quite a few large trout but it is the hardest hole in the entire stream to fish, with some of the oldest fish in the stream. There is absolutely no place to backcast and you are at an odd angle. Everyone that I fish with or have talked to about this hole will confirm, It’s just a bi*#\$ to fish this spot. I showed him how to do a modified roll cast. It took him less than 3 minutes to learn this cast. He kept saying he wished he could get it farther and I told him we all do too. “Everyone I know, never can cast

in the spot correctly but keep trying and hang on.”

About 1 minute later this older gentleman had a monster fish crush that bugger like it was the last food item on earth. The rainbow leaped the entire way out

of the water, ran about 10 feet and took one large head shake and snapped the 3x like it was 8x. The man’s jaw dropped and he yelled, “DID YOU SEE THAT TROUT! THAT’S GOT TO BE THE BIGGEST TROUT I’VE EVER SEEN!” What was funny was that fish leapt out of the water for the next 3 minutes or so trying to dislodge the large bugger from the corner of its mouth. We just sat in awe and watched the fish. He lost the fish because of his lack of experience with playing large fish on a fly rod. But that’s ok. Before we had to quit I got him into another large trout that the barbless hook just let go.

The old man turned to me and said, “Thank you, this is what I came for! I’ve learned more in the past 30 minutes with you than I did in the prior 6 hours of the tournament. I really appreciate it!”

I could see he was still trembling from the large fish he felt tug his fly line. I told him I had just as much fun watching him as he probably did fishing. I made sure he knew that the fish he tangled with are over 5-7 years old and that I’ve seen experienced anglers take years to get these fish to bite. He did it on his first try. He said, “You know what, you’re right!”

“Thank you, this is what I came for!”

I like to think that he got a glimpse into his father’s past passion. Even if for just a moment, maybe the riddles his father sought to solve, he untangled in his own way. At the very least, he honored his father by just being on the water thinking of him. I think his dad would have been proud of the way he handled himself so well and just had fun like he planned to do.

So the greatest gift you can give a fly-fisherman is a memory. A time or place frozen in the mind. A keepsake for your own reference to view when you please to do so. The key to this gift is sharing your knowledge with one another.

As sportsmen, let’s never forget this.

BRIAN TRAUSSSEL



Committee Reports, continued from page 3

Hopefully, I acknowledged all who participated and spelled your names correctly.

You just gotta love these guys and gals who give up precious time with their families and even take time off from their jobs to help out with these events

We have three more events coming up that will require special handling:

First Cast Youth Program on July 9, Big Brothers & Sisters on August 28, and Special Olympics Fishing Derby on September 10th.

Watch the website for updates.

We appreciate you and what you do to make it happen.

FAYE HAERING,
DTU VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.

FIRST CAST

I am happy to announce the 2nd annual Donegal Trout Unlimited First Cast Program. Last year's event was a huge success and this year should be even better. We would like your help in getting the word out and inviting some kids to participate. The date is July 9, 2011, and location is Ned Bushong's farm at 1056 Clay Road, Lititz, PA. The time is from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. As last year, we will provide the equipment and the instruction. The kids need to get there and be ready for a morning of fun and experience.

Each participant will learn the basic in's and out's of the sport of fly fishing including how to get started, equipment review and assembly, casting instruction, and they will even get to tie their own fly. In addition, they will get the chance to actually fish in the pond and hopefully catch their first fish on a fly rod. We learn, but we make it fun too.

The basic plan is to do about ½ hour at each of about 4-5 stations and conclude with some fishing. Some drinks and snacks will be provided, but each child should have breakfast at home before the event. Dress should be appropriate for the weather. I am sure in mid-July it will be warm. Fly fisherman get wet so they should be prepared for rain-or-shine conditions.

In an attempt to make the enrollment as efficient as possible my goal is to conduct it via e-mail. My address is kevinhirst@comcast.net. My cell number is 717-821-5263 should you need to talk with me directly. I would like to set a deadline of enrollment for July 1, 2011 and it should be noted that reservations will be accepted on a first-come basis. We are limited to 18 participants due to the amount of equipment we have. Age should be 12 years to 15 years, but exceptions can be made if someone younger has a real desire. I can handle those requests as they arise.

It should also be noted that this program is geared toward beginning fly fisherman, or those that do not get an opportunity to fish. An experienced child may find the program to be too basic to hold their interest.

Instructors will include Donegal TU Members and also members of the United States Youth Fly Fishing Team. Last year our instructors had several hundred years of combined experience in the stream so the level of expertise is high. Please distribute this invitation to those kids you think would be good candidates. Trout in the Classroom students who don't get much opportunity seem to be a good fit. Please send me the name, address, phone number, and adult partner of each child to my e-mail. I will continue to send information out as things unfold.

Please bear in mind that this program's success depends on getting kids to come. It may not be viable to conduct the program if only 1 or 2 want to participate. Kids may be dropped off and picked up at noon, or parents are welcome to stay. If they are dropping off please be on time for pick up at noon as I have other obligations that afternoon. I am available to discuss any portion or details I may have overlooked. If your child has special needs you may call me privately.

KEVIN M. HIRST
FIRST CAST COORDINATOR

DONEGAL CHAPTER



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