



The Streamer

TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER #468

Denis Mora
President

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Welcome to the second edition of our Newsletter. A lot has happened in the last few months. Be sure to catch up with Den's 'On the Fly' column as well as Mikes' Conservation Corner. Be sure to read our other articles as our members take you fishing from State College to Poland.

As you read this newsletter, you may start thinking about your next fishing trip. As you plan your next trip please consider bringing children along.

Any parent or guardian, who has taken the time to bring their charges along, can attest to the look in a young persons eye when they first hook a fish. True, the adult may have had a hand in baiting or tying a fly to hook. He or she probably had a hand in reeling the catch in as well. I still remember my son's first experience. He was around 12 at the time. We were at one of the docks near Academy and State road. He quickly caught an eel. Ever since then he has been enthused about the idea of fishing.

It is important to bring the experience of fishing to today's youth. With-

out our guidance, there is a good chance that they may never pick up a rod and reel. Imagine a future where fishing has been put aside for other pursuits such as playing video games.

There is nothing wrong with video games, etc., but we should not ignore the experiences that nature has to offer.



Who Are We?

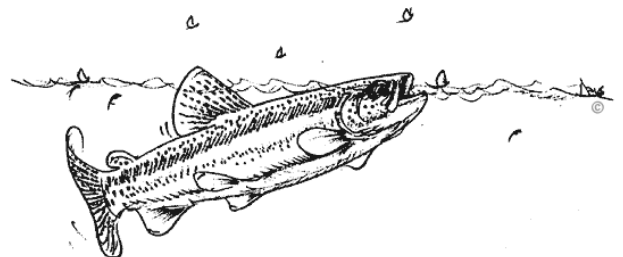
We are the Southeastern Montgomery Chapter, Chapter #468, of Trout Unlimited.

We are located at:

The Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
2955 Edge Hill Road
Huntington Valley, PA. 19006

Our Web site is:

<http://dept.physics.upenn.edu/~wk/SEMCTU.html>



On the Fly By Den Mora

The fish fought hard, his life depended on it. But this battle would represent so much more than the life and death of this great fish. The angler, a young boy, had set the hook on a future in conservation. His first catch must go home as a trophy. Catch and release would come in time.

The moment is frozen in time, as if it were yesterday and not 40 years ago. The rod and reel were spin casting equipment purchased by my uncle. My brother received an identical set. It was my uncle who took the time to introduce two kids to the sport of fishing and ultimately conservation. I write this having just come off the stream after an evening of patrolling for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, as a Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer. I think of my brother who is camping and teaching fishing skills to his Boy Scout troop and other troops this weekend in Lebanon County.

One of the best parts of being involved with a Trout Unlimited chapter is the programs we've participated in with area youth. Our chapter has been involved in 4 youth events this spring, with another event planned for this September. I've been blessed with a grandson who has just turned 2 years old. He has a spin casting rod and reel of his own, but is yet to catch his first fish. I expect this to change very shortly.

How do you measure the importance of introducing children to fishing? The big smile on a youngsters face is surely reward enough to the teacher. The image of my son hugging a Rainbow Trout that he managed to yank through the ice for his first fish is something I will always cherish. I look at our chapter members and think about some of the great work being done for conservation. I then think about the smiles that must have been on their faces as youngsters with their first fish. We've all been there and we can pass that on.

My uncle now lives in Florida and I don't get to see him very often, but I'll never forget that summer day we spent at that pond. Thank you Uncle Ed. You've made a difference.



Zebco rod and reel \$10.00
 Dozen night crawlers \$3.00
 Hooks and weights \$2.00
 A lifetime of memories – Priceless

Make it a point to take a kid fishing; conservation may end up in his or her creel.



Out of the Box By John Beck

Choosing A New Puppy

I once read somewhere that the best things about fly-fishing are the places that you go to fish. That's very true – especially with the smaller streams in our area of PA, where we can escape to some of the most beautiful places in the state and leave the drone of the city behind. For me, there is an added benefit: looking for birds. I am an avid upland hunter, and spend many days each season pursuing pheasant and grouse on public game lands. Up until lately, most of my grouse hunting has been done up at our cabin in Potter County, but since becoming involved in TU, I've been able to explore more local areas and have been fortunate to find wonderful bird habitat closer to home.

To me, there is nothing more beautiful than hunting behind a trained bird dog. Having a great bird dog and companion start with being able to pick the right puppy. That means doing your research and knowing how to evaluate one adorable bundle of fur from the next. Spring and summer are the most popular times of the year to bring a new pup into your family, so here are some very simple pointers (no pun intended!) for picking a great puppy:

1. Choose the parents carefully. Look for good breeding. Visit both parents in person if possible. Look at the pedigree for Titles and Championships. These things don't guarantee a good pup, but it tells you the breeder is committed to their program and improving the breed.
2. Evaluate each puppy behaving with its littermates before you pick it up. It also makes sense to evaluate each puppy multiple times – they have good days and bad days, just like us.
3. Listen to the breeder. They spend a lot of time observing the pups, and good breeders will have taken notes of the characteristics of each pup. Know what you are looking for, and ask the breeder for help.
4. Take each pup, one by one, away from the litter to an unfamiliar location. You want to see how the pup reacts away from its normal surroundings. Is it acting bold and curious, or does it appear scared and apprehensive? Experts recommend looking towards bolder, more curious pups.
5. Gently cradle the puppy on its back, like you would a baby. You want to judge the amount of resistance and squirming that the pup demonstrates. Too much, and it may be sign of difficulty to train, and too little and it may demonstrate that it is overly submissive and "soft", which can also make training difficult.
6. With the pup on the ground, slowly walk away without speaking. Good pups are generally interested in people, and will follow along.
7. Test retrieving instinct by gently restraining the pup and tossing a light, colorful object for it to retrieve. You are looking for the dog to demonstrate desire to by demonstrating any of the parts of a successful retrieve: marking the object, running to it, picking it up, returning it to you.

These temperament tests are not a guarantee of a great dog, but they will help you filter down the list potential candidates. Always do your research on the breed so you know the temperament, hunting style, size/weight, breed-specific health issues, etc. Also, be sure to check references: good breeders will be able to put you in contact with families that own their dogs. Try and observe these dogs (as well as the parent dogs) in the field hunting as well.

Follow these steps, and you will be well on your way to having a great hunting

Spin Fishing the Lehigh River By Al Kahoun

Nestled snugly in the Pocono's is the Lehigh River. Given recognition by Trout Unlimited for the improvements made over the years, it has become the home to a diversity of aquatic life. Not the least of which are the trout. Rainbows and brown trout can be found in pools, tail ends of rapids and behind the many large rocks that inhabit the river.

Fly-fishing the Lehigh can make for an exiting time. However, the Lehigh also offers many challenges to the fisherman who wishes to try his luck with spinning gear. With the rocky bottom and swirling rapids, choosing a lure can sometimes prove frustrating. Too heavy and you are likely to loose it to the unforgiving stony bottom. Too light and it can be swept away from your intended target area. There are however, lures that work beautifully in these waters.

Rooster Tails can be highly effective. I've landed many fish on these little wonders. I recommend using yellow or red ones. Try casting slightly upstream and as close to the opposite bank as possible. While reeling the lure in, you want to keep it in the direction of the flow for as long as possible.

Spoons and spinners also work well in the Lehigh. Try experimenting with different colors and styles.

By keeping your tackle light you can have a great day fishing the river. Whatever you do, keep your eyes open. Not only for the rocks below your feet but also at all of the natural beauty around you. Once, shortly after a dam release, the fishing became slow. While casting I looked around and a smile came to lips. Looking around at what nature had wrought, breathing in the clean air while a hawk was gliding overhead, I felt totally at ease. This is what fishing is all about.

Conservation Corner *By Mike Wilson*

June 2007

June signals the start of our in stream work. Our work days are scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of the month - June through October. As usual we will work from 8:00 AM to Noon. The Chapter will provide lunch (hoagies) as usual. This year we will have one exception to the schedule - our work day in August will be August 11th instead of the 18th. We're making this change due to the Chapter Trip to Wyoming (August 18th to 25th).

The work day schedule for 2007 is : June 16th, July 21st, August 11th, Sept. 15th, Oct. 20th. Be sure to mark you calendars.

This year we will be wrapping up the Adopt A Stream project on the main stem of Pennypack Creek with the addition of large rocks throughout both sections of the project. This will further enhance the devices we've installed, and add more structure to the stream.

Our Adopt A Stream project for 2007 / 2008 will be the addition of 20 in stream devices to Harpers Run, which is located in Lorimer Park. For those of you that are unfamiliar with Harpers Run, it is the tributary to Pennypack Creek that enters just below Moredon Road. The devices we'll be installing have been designed by the PA F&BC, and will enhance the flow and structure of this important tributary. Last year several of us observed a trout living in Harpers Run well into the summer, so we believe that our stream work will create additional trout habitat in Lorimer Park.

I just received word 2 weeks ago that the mussel survey was completed by the PA F&BC at the site of the Old Huntingdon Pike dam, and no endangered mussels were found. This information has been forwarded to the PA DEP, and we're now waiting for issuance of the permit for the removal of the dam. Once we receive the permit, we will develop bid specs., and solicit bids for the removal of the dam. Hopefully this process will move smoothly, and we'll be able to proceed with this project.

If you've been following the story of the un-damming of Pennypack Creek, you know that restoring the Pennypack to free flowing condition has gained a lot support recently. I'm hoping that we can play a small role in restoring Pennypack Creek to it's former glory, as a free flowing stream teeming with both resident and migratory fish. I'll keep you posted as this develops.

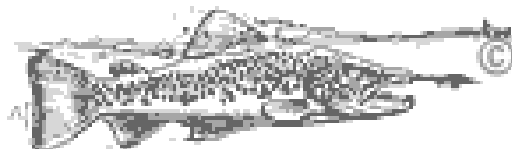
Project Head Waters is moving forward more rapidly than I ever imagined. Phase 1 has been completed. We've identified sites within Sub Basin 1, and have applied for a Growing Greener II Grant in the amount of \$ 343,871. If fully funded, we will retro fit 4 dry detention basins, restore wetlands, and create bioswales / bioretention areas.

In addition, we've applied for a TreeVitalize Grant in the amount of \$33,400.46, which will be used to reforest 2 areas (total of @ 100,000 square feet) on Natural Lands Trust property also in Sub Basin 1. Phase 2 is moving forward. The plan is to identify additional sites within Sub Basin 1, and develop remediation plans for them.

We hope to apply for a NFWS Grant for these sites. The deadline for this grant is July 27th. The site visits will be done on June 12th. We're going to be looking at 3 dry detention basins, a church property, and the Blair Mill Elementary School property. I'll keep you informed as Phase 2 progresses.

As you can see the Chapter has a lot going on from a Conservation standpoint. In order to make this work, we need your help. At the least, we need you to help at our work days. Please plan to make as many as you can.

Not only do we do something good for the environment, but we have a good time doing it. Give it a try.



Fly-Fishing in Poland By Rich Ulrych

Most Americans imagine that the topography of Poland is something like that of Iowa, and thus most American fly anglers don't associate Poland with cold water fishing. Surprisingly, going back in history, Polish rivers and streams once teemed with salmon, trout, and grayling. This actually makes a lot of sense. Poland's climate is a lot like Maine's, and many rivers remain remarkably cool all year round. Moreover, there are mountains in the south, and a number of limestone streams in the area around Krakow. Before the 19th century, when much of the country was covered by forests, conditions for cold-water species were excellent.

This May I made a trip to Poland, and my wife and I decided to visit one of my friends who lives along the San. During the visit we learned that a portion of the river (from where the mouth of the Hoczewka River enters the San, upstream to the village of Zwierzyn) had been turned into special regulations waters catch and release, fly-fishing, barbless hooks only. My wife and I took a walk down to the river, and we couldn't believe our eyes. Fish were rising everywhere, even in the flat shallow water up against the bank, and they were oblivious to our presence. These were not the super wary fish I remembered from before.

Two days later, I arrived at the river, fly rod and one-day fishing permit in hand. The fish weren't rising as they had two days before, but there still was a lot of activity. Over the next five hours, I caught and released a countless number of trout and grayling; most of them were of pretty good size --all but one on dry flies. I was the only angler in sight. The water down stream from the special reg section was crammed with anglers, who I learned also enjoyed pretty good fishing -- much better than what I knew from the 1990s probably the result of fish from the special reg section being forced downstream by overpopulation.



Penn's Creek By Den Mora

March Browns littered the sky, Sulphur Duns emerged consistently and Spinners peppered the surface of one of Pennsylvania's most famous trout streams. Just another typical mid May evening on Penn's Creek? Perhaps, but this one had the addition of 14 Trout Unlimited chapter members plying their angling skills against the wary Brown Trout lurking in the depths of this beautiful spring creek.

Penn's Creek gets its start at Penn's Cave, where one can take a tour of the stalactites and stalagmites from a boat. After passing the small town of Colburn, Penn's picks up its biggest tributary, Elk Creek. This additional shot of cold water helps to provide trout with the temperatures needed to survive the warm summer. As Penn's winds its way through Seven Mountains, it passes Lykens Valley Camp. Lykens Valley Camp lies at the base of Paddy Mountain on the bank of Penn's.



Each year two of the camp members, Hall and Dick McKinney, graciously invite fellow Southeastern Montgomery County TU chapter members out for some of the best fishing in the east. This year 14 members gathered together to spend time fishing and sharing tales of the fish caught, wildlife viewed and events of the day. A few members even found time to swim in the 58 degree water, accidentally of course! The creek can be a tough one to wade. Wading staffs are a must.

Penn's Brown Trout are known for their wariness, and it's evident to those that fish them. I wasn't surprised to have a fish that was rising to Sulphur Duns charge, eye up, and then refuse my

imitation. But I was surprised when a live dun drifted into his feeding lane with the same results. The challenge is what makes these fish so rewarding.

I can't speak for everyone, but I believe the weekend was enjoyable for all. It's great to get together as a group. I certainly had a great time.

Calendar of events

- Sept..
 - 8-Chapter picnic at Lorimer Park
 - 11-Chapter membership meeting
 - 15-Work day at Lorimer Park
- Oct.
 - 10-Chapter membership meeting
 - 20-Work day at Lorimer Park
- Nov.
 - 3-Work day with Treevitalize
 - 13-Chapter membership meeting
- Dec.
 - 11-Chapter membership Meeting

Don't forget to support those businesses that support our chapter. These include:

The Sporting Gentleman

Mainstream Outfitters

The Evening Hatch



Special thanks to Dave Whitlock for use of his artwork.

Visit Dave at www.davewhitlock.com

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