



The Streamer

TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER # 468

Denis Mora President
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Welcome to the first issue of the New Year. Many things have happened in the last year and this year promises to be just as exciting. Between the youth days, esp. when we team up with the Rotary Club, the stream restoration work, the banquet, etc. We are planning a very full year. We’ll try to get as much info as possible out to you so you can see what we’ve been up to.

Don’t miss our new ongoing column ‘Welcome to Troutville’

2008 TU Banquet

On March 8th, we will be holding our annual members banquet. There will be door prizes, silent auctions, raffles and much more. This year’s grand prize will be a kayak. The second prize is a digital camera. We’ll have items spread over several tables that can be yours should you or your spouse win the drawings for those items.

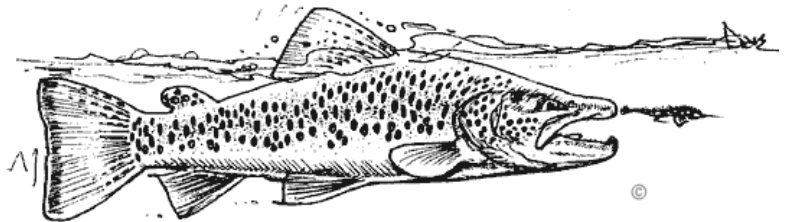
The presenter this year is Dwight Landis. Dwight is a fisherman who has fallen in love with fishing the streams of our fair state. He is also the author of Trout Streams of Pennsylvania: An Anglers Guide.

Of course, there will be a main course and the soft drinks and beers are free. We hope you can attend to meet up with your fellow members.

WHO ARE WE?

We are the Southeastern Montgomery County Chapter of Trout Unlimited—conserving, protecting and restoring the Pennypack Creek Watershed.

We are located at
The Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
2955 Edge Hill Rd,
Huntingdon Valley, PA. 19006



Our web site is:
<http://dept.physics.upenn.edu/~wk/SEMCTU.html>
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On the fly By Denis Mora

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Much has been going on in the Pennypack Creek Watershed this past fall. In September a rock ramp fishway was built by the Philadelphia Water Department to allow fish passage over a sewer line crossing the creek upstream of Frankford Avenue. This was built in partnership with several agencies and organizations, including our chapter of Trout Unlimited, American Rivers, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, The Philadelphia Water Department and the Fairmount Park Commission. The fishway was constructed



in such a fashion that it would blend in with the natural environment of the park. Only natural materials were used during construction. Almost 700 tons of rocks were used for the stream bank and

weirs, which created a series of riffles, eliminating the waterfall of 2 feet. The catalyst for this project was the reintroduction of Hickory Shad, although the device benefits all species in Pennypack Creek. Anadromous and resident fish species will once again be able to make their way upstream. Fish habitat was incorporated into the projects design in the way of log structures, rock structures and deep pools for resting. The over widened channel was narrowed to half its size. This will allow and maintain the transport of the fine particles that all too often choke out the



habitat of many native species along the streams bed. Finally, this device also protects the sewer line from damage. Erosion had been occurring as a result of the water flowing over

and dropping over the sewer line. This problem is now resolved.

Moving upstream in November, the Old Huntingdon Pike Dam was finally removed after years of pushing by our chapter. The removal allows for the movement of all fish. It also promotes the movement of fine particles downstream and addresses the negative thermal impact that was created upstream of the dam.

Further upstream yet, in fact as far upstream as one could go on the Pennypack, riparian buffer restoration was addressed with the planting of 170 trees along the headwaters of Pennypack Creek.

What a great way to finish out 2007 and kick start 2008.

Hopefully the New Year will bring continued results like those of the past year.

See you on the stream.

Den



Conservation Corner *By Mike Wilson—Project Coordinator*

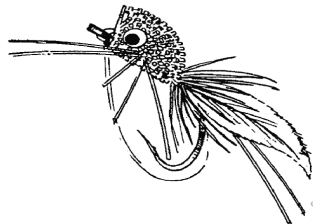
With winter upon us, you would think that our conservation efforts would be in hibernation. In some respects they are, but in other areas things are just starting to heat up. Here's the run down:

Harpers Run - We completed 18 devices this year. We still have some finishing touches, but in effect we completed 2 years work in one. We've arranged for Karl Lutz to come out next Spring to design the devices for the remaining 1,000 feet of Harpers Run. Hopefully Harpers Run will be completed in 2008. At this pace, we'll be looking for another Adopt-A-Stream project for 2009. Any suggestions, contact Mike Mulray or me.

Old Huntingdon Pike Dam removal - For those of you that don't know, the Dam is gone. Removal started on November 29th. By the time you read this, all construction work at the site will be completed. If you have a chance, you should stop by and take a look. We hope to have pictures posted on our website shortly, so you can compare the before and after photos. Next spring we will be finishing up at the site, with the planting of trees and shrubs. Stay tuned for the planting dates.

Project Headwaters - The first PHW project has been completed. We Planted 170 trees and shrubs on the Natural Land Trust property in Horsham on November 3rd. These plants will supplement the riparian buffer in @ 15,000 square feet of former pasture bordering a tributary of

Pennypack Creek. Thanks to all the volunteers (TU and others) who helped get this Project in the ground. The second planting on the NLT property will take place in the spring, with another 500 trees and shrubs to be planted in an area of about 90,000 square feet. This is really an exciting project, because the tributary in this area is the actual start of Pennypack Creek. The creek seeps out of the ground @ 100 - 200 feet above the area we're going to plant. This area currently doesn't have any overhead cover, so we'll be adding riparian buffer to an area that doesn't have any now. Long



range I'm thinking that this is the area where we could look to reintroduce streambred trout into the Pennypack Creek Watershed.

We just completed a survey at the Blair Mill Elementary School for a 2008 TreeVitalize Grant. We will be applying for funds to improve the riparian buffer along a tributary to Pennypack Creek that runs through the school property. This site is also the subject of our Delaware Estuary Grant application to install wetlands and infiltration basins. While we were at the school, we spoke to the principal about some other conservation activities for the school - including

Name the Stream (for the unnamed tributary), Fish in the Classroom, Stream Cleanups, and involving the students and Home and School Assn. in our plantings on site. We received a very enthusiastic response. We're really looking forward to working with the team at Blair Mill School.

We're still waiting to hear on our Growing Greener II Grant application. This is the grant that would fund retrofitting the dry detention basins in Lukens Park and Saw Mill Development, as well as construction of wetlands at College Settlement. Keep your fingers crossed. We also met with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to discuss alternative funding sources for PHW - including Foundations and Businesses. More on this later.

Shandor Szalay of AKRF, Inc. (our Consultant on PHW) and I gave a presentation on PHW at the PA TU Coldwater Conference on Feb. 23rd in State College. We were the only Trout Unlimited chapter giving a presentation. We're thrilled to have been selected.

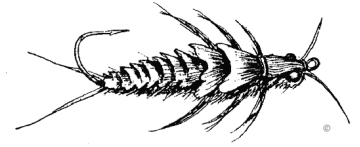
So other than installing 18 devices, removing a dam, planting 170 trees, 2007 was a little slow. Just wait until 2008 - you'll be amazed. I'll keep you posted, and hope you'll join in the fun.

Mike Wilson
Project Coordinator

We're really looking forward to working with the team at Blair Mill School .



Outside the Box By Rich Terry



- Winter Duck Hunt

So it is just starting to snow when I start the car. Sam and I meet up at the gas station, exchange the normal, "Morning, Man were not too bright are we?"

So after the coffee stop we are on our way. It's snowing real heavy now and visibility is little to nil. 30 minutes later we are getting out of the cars in heavy snow in the pitch black.

Ohhh yeah this is gonna be a good one.

We are in the canoe in no time. We set up about 150 yards up river at the bend of the stream. A slutty little hen decoy and her companion were collecting snow by the time we sat down on the bank. We quickly moved down a little further to a better spot.

Well by the time legal shooting came around I had about a half an inch of snow all over me. I was invisible.

Then they started. Cupped, locked and landing. First wave consisted of about 40 birds.

All landed down river about 60 yards. There were about 4-5 waves of ducks just like the first. All out of range. Then two land off to my right. Real close. They slowly drifted around the bush and were eight feet in front of me.

I let out a quack then another. Then one more. They then got up. One did not get that far.

So we collected the goods and went down river to where they had all landed. A big evergreen was overhanging the water over top of us.



We waited, waited. Then they all landed back where we had just come from. They swam back and forth. Never did come into range. So we hopped in the boat and tried our hand at jumping some. To no avail.

We ended the morning with one drake mallard. But we limited out on memories.



Early season Fishing

Tips on hypothermia

Lets not forget, it may be a nice warm day in early spring but remember the water temperature has just the right elements for hypothermia. Leave the light breathable waders at home and stick with the neoprenes. Hypothermia is something that creeps up on a person while you're pre-occupied with catching all those big fish. It starts out with feeling numb. When shivering starts, that's the tell tale signs that your in the first stages of hypothermia. Most cases of hypothermia take place in temperature ranges from the mid 40s to the mid 50s than any other.



Greetings from Troutville By Tom Frank *our displaced member in Central PA*

Centre County, PA: World Class Fly Fishing is Closer than You May Realize

Think about what you did last Saturday between breakfast and lunch. If you're like me, you probably can't even remember how you spent those three or four hours, but it likely involved some sort of sitting around, avoiding the list of projects to do around the house. In other words, not much. Well I am here to bring some refreshing, possibly life-changing news to you. In the time it takes to watch a football game, you can drive from the bustling city to what many consider the best trout fishing in the Eastern U.S. Centre County, Pennsylvania and its vicinity are home to an overwhelming number of trout streams, from the famous limestone creeks that fish well even in the winter, to mountain freestone streams with brook trout that receive such little pressure, it almost seems like they *strive* to please.

Four years ago, I was at a point in my life where I had options. I was just out of college with work that I could bring with me anywhere and a wife-to-be that was still gaga over me enough to find my ideas interesting. So I thought, hey, why not move somewhere else since we're not tied down to anything? Being that I suffer from a rare, chronic addiction that forces me to fish for wild trout as often as physically possible, it only made sense to consider this the number one factor in where to relocate. My wife and I researched all options that were drivable from Philadelphia, even visiting areas in Vermont and New Hampshire to see what New England had to offer. Nothing could match the resources of Centre County, PA. So we packed up and headed out, landing in a town called Bellefonte.

Bellefonte just so happens to be built around a nice little stream called Spring Creek. Spring Creek just so happens to have more Brown Trout than you can shake a five weight at. A fifteen minute drive through farmland to the next valley east of me is Big Fishing Creek, another famous limestone that in addition to Browns, supports a decent population of Brook trout--what may be the largest brook trout in the state. A fun fact about Big Fishing Creek is the 34 inch, 15 lb. one-time state record Brown that fly fishing master Joe Humphries landed in 1978. And don't forget Penns Creek, still my favorite trout stream even after all of my adventures out west. These three creeks are all listed in TU's *America's 100 Best Trout Streams*, and they are all in Centre County. Top off the famous waters with a side of hundreds of smaller trout streams all around, and I now had a *lot* of options.

Before moving here, I used to drive up to the Lehigh Valley to fish the limestone creeks around Allentown and Bethlehem, which was about an hour and a half from door to creek. There is some good fishing to be had up there, but it always bugged me that I could count the trout streams on one hand, a couple of them being marginal. If I still lived in Philly, I would now consider driving the extra two hours and coming here for a day trip. Or an even better idea would be to make a



weekend out of it with a fishing buddy (caution: make sure that this buddy's "top five movies of all time" list does not include *Brokeback Mountain*...unless it is also one of your favorites. Not that there's anything wrong with that.)

If fishing larger creeks that have their own hatch charts is your thing, you can't beat this area. If exploring new waters gives you the biggest thrill, you can't go wrong here; if there is a trickle, there is a trout! For a change of pace, you could start fishing up here around lunch time and still make it home in time to keep the misses happy. Or if staying overnight is what makes her even happier, you can comfortably fish two or three creeks in two days, hook into dozens of wild trout, and really get that urban-induced fishing bug out of your system.



Calendar of events

March

- 8 Chapter Banquet
- 11 Monthly Membership Meeting
- 29 Regional Trout Opener

April

- 8 Monthly Membership Meeting
- 12 Traditional Trout Opener

May

- 3+4 Treevitalize Planting
- 13 Monthly Membership Meeting
- 15—18 Penn's Creek Trip
- 24 Fish For Free Day

June

- 1 Fish for free day
- 10 Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 21 Workday on Harper's Run

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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