



The Streamer

TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHEASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER # 468

Welcome to the newly revised Streamer. You can find out what we've been doing the past few years and who we are in our president's column 'On The Fly'. Also, be sure to read our project managers column on the restoration work that we've been performing in the Pennypack watershed. We will also be presenting articles on fishing trips, fly tying and other activities that we've been involved with over the years. Hopefully there will be something for everyone. It's our intention to inform as well as to entertain. On the outside, it may appear that our common bond is fishing. Yes, that's part of it. Helping the youth with various programs, working on restoring the local streams and educating the

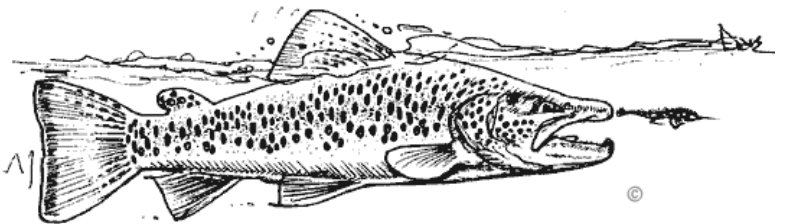
public are also a part of it. Indeed, they are probably the largest part. It's easy to meet other people that fish. Finding others that want to help the youth in the area and educate them on why fishing and conservation go hand in hand is a bit more difficult. Nor do we do it alone. Trained personnel from the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission have aided us on more than one occasion. There are other groups and organizations as well that are committed to the same goals as we are. In the future, we will be presenting articles on their efforts as well. For now, sit back and enjoy. Let us know if there are any topics that you would like to see handled by the Streamer.

Denis Mora President
Al Kahoun Vice President
Dennis O'Gara Treasurer
John Beck Secretary

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>
E-mail troutunlimited468@yahoo.com

On the fly By Denis Mora

Welcome to the first issue of the new Streamer, the Southeastern Montgomery County Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter. For those of you who are not familiar with the chapter, let me bring you up to speed.

The chapter meets at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust on Edgehill Rd. in Huntingdon Valley the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm from Sept. through June. A typical night includes a short business meeting, a brief period for refreshments and raffle, and a featured speaker

This past fall brought our 4th banquet. Aside from providing a great social event for members and guests, banquets help fund our youth programs and stream restoration.



Our 2007 banquet

This year the chapter had its second beginners fly tying course, with Sam Shiels as our instructor.

The chapter recently completed a 5-year stream restoration project on Pennypack Creek. 20 devices were placed in the stream. This year finds us embarking on a new project involving more of the watershed (more on stream work later

from our Project Coordinator, Mike Wilson).



The group on the Upper Green River with Squaretop Mountain in the background

For the past few years, chapter members have gotten together for fishing trips. 9 members flew out to Wyoming last year for a week of angling some of the beautiful waters of the Bridger Teton National Forest and surrounding waters. Mike Wilson, our unofficial trip coordinator has a list of trips for the next 10 years, including Alaska in 2008. In addition to that, members get together to fish local streams. A day of fishing with another member is only a phone call away.

Unfortunately with the closure of the Ft. Washington Expo Center, we've lost our venue for the Outdoors Show and the Fly Fishing Show, at which we manned booths. We're looking for other venues where we can get out, set up a booth and meet the public. We did attend the Somerset Fly Fishing Show as a group. Next year we plan to stay for the weekend.

Our youth program is up and running. Partnerships with several organizations help to entertain kids with fishing events on Klienhienz Pond, Alverthorpe Park and Pennypack Creek in Lorimer Park. We're in the planning stages of involving school classes in our restoration work. This would contribute to an educational component for the program.



Chapter assistance at the Rotary Club Fishing Derby in Lorimer Park

Chapter membership is on the rise and participation has been increasing. In the last few years, the chapter has become known in the area as a group dedicated to protecting our environment. I'm proud to be a part of this chapter and I look forward to the exciting future of our rivers and streams in Southeast Pennsylvania. I hope you'll be a part of that future.



Why Fly Fish By Al Kaboun

Most anglers envision fly-fishing as a 20th century sport. The truth of the matter is that fly-fishing was developed ages ago. It has been recorded by the ancient Egyptians that the use of artificial flies was utilized in the day-to-day necessity of catching fish.

Like many anglers, I had started out with a spinning rod and reel. I still remember my first fishing experience at the bridge over the Pennypack at the Roosevelt Boulevard. From that adventure I had started a lifetime love of fishing.

It wasn't until years later that I learned of, and developed a love of, fly-fishing. It was at Yellowstone Park along

with my brother in law that I had cast my first fly.

You could see the bottom of the Yellowstone River. More important, you could see the fish, as well as the insect life. A lure would have been disastrous. It would have served only to scare the trout away. A fly, similar to the ones hatching on the river that morning, would be just what the doctor ordered. I had tied on a dry fly upon the recommendation of my brother in law. I made a few casts to where the fish were. Upon my fourth or fifth cast, I saw a Cutthroat trout sip my fly. Gently, I lifted my rod. Imagine catching a blue fish on an

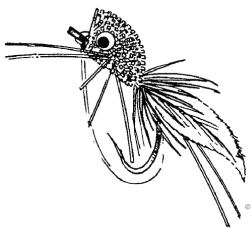
ultra light rod. That was how it felt for me for the first time. The rush and the thrill of the catch was so intoxicating that I was hooked forever.

It was then, while reeling in my first fly caught trout that I realized why my brother in law was so hell bent on using fly fishing equipment instead of the old dependable spinning gear. I still use the spinning gear from time to time. However, there are those times where casting a fly is the best way to go. Of course, there is also the rush and the thrill of a trout bending your fly rod that can never be duplicated on spinning gear.

The rush and the thrill of the catch was so intoxicating that I was hooked forever.

Anything Goes By Rudy Gable

This column is going to consist from anything and everything that has to do with getting to your favorite streams and getting home safely. And also maybe catching some fish along the way. We will be getting you information on fly tying, casting tips, fishing tactics, first aid, stream information. So lets not delay, and jump right in.



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

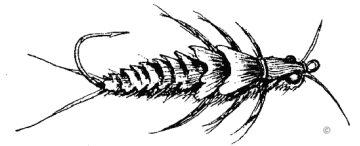
take place in temperature ranges from the mid 40s to the mid 50s than any other.

1. Get out of the water
2. Get out of the wind
3. Start ingesting warm liquids

A lot of times a rain jacket is a great source of keeping internal body temperature up.



In Conservation News By Mike Wilson—Project Coordinator



Since this is our initial issue of the SEMC TU Streamer, a little background information is in order. In 2001 the Chapter started its Adopt A Stream Project in conjunction with the PA Fish & Boat Commission. We chose a section of the Pennypack Creek located in Lorimer Park in Abington Township. This 1600-foot section was chosen for several reasons, the primary ones being ease of access and willingness of the park to assist us.

We worked with Karl Lutz of the Habitat Management section of the Fish and Boat Commission to complete the stream assessment and design the devices to be installed. Work starting in June 2001 and other than some large rock that has to be placed in the stream, all the devices were complete in October 2006. We installed 20 'in stream' devices including single log deflectors (6), stone deflectors (5) and log and stone deflectors (9). We placed 325 tons of stone in the stream, along with 42 logs ranging in length from 3 feet to 30 feet.



The purpose of all this work is to scour the stream channel both cleaning and deepening the channel in the work area. In addition, fish habitat was created throughout the project area. While we accomplished these goals, we also learned that a stream in a living thing which is constantly changing. Some of our devices have worked better than others, but we will be constantly striving to im-

prove their design and function.

With the competition on the project on the Pennypack, we had to decide where to work. After evaluating several options, we decided to continue the Adopt A Stream Project on Harpers Run. Harpers Run is a tributary to Pennypack Creek, with 2000 feet of streambed located inside Lorimer Park. Again working with Karl Lutz, a stream assessment was done, and plans formulated for the lower 1000 feet of the stream. The purpose of this project is to enhance the stream to improve flow and habitat. We expect to complete Harpers Run in about 4 years.

Of course, no discussion of conservation would be complete without mention of our dam removal / fish passage work. Since the spring of 2004 the chapter has been assisting the PA F&BC in the stocking Hickory Shad larvae. This spring should bring a return of adult shad. To date we have been involved with the removal of the Beth Ayres (Spring) Dam located on Terwood Road. This dam was removed in Dec. 2005. We worked with the PA F&BC to fund the engineering of the "rock ramp" at the sewer line that crosses Pennypack Creek at Rhawn Street. This fish passage device should be installed sometime this year. This device will permit the adult Hickory Shad to swim over this blockage. Last but not least, is our own dam removal project for the Huntington Pike Dam. We are awaiting permit approval from the PA DEP. Once the permit is granted, we will solicit bids for the construction. We hope to complete the removal this year. Once this dam is removed, the only blockages that remain are the Roosevelt Blvd. and Verree Road dams. We are working with the Fairmount Park Commission to remove these dams. If removal is not acceptable, then we will pursue fish passage.

The newest phase of our stream restoration work is "Project Headwa-

ters". This project is in the initial stages. It will be a partnership with various groups who are interested in the protection of the headwaters of the Pennypack Watershed. It will involve prioritizing and implementing stream restoration, habitat improvement and storm water management projects. I will keep you informed as this project develops.

From throwing stone to moving logs, the Chapter has done the job month after month. I couldn't be prouder of the work we've done. We do our stream work on the 3rd Saturday of the month from June through October. Come on out and lend a hand. I think you'll enjoy the work. Plus you'll get a hoagie and a soda for your trouble. See you on the stream.

Future Speakers

Coming up in the next few months is a myriad of speakers and presentations.

At our April meeting, Rod Rohrbach will visit us. Rod runs the Little Lehigh Fly Shop. This time around, he will be doing a presentation on subsurface fly fishing.

Our May meeting will be presented by the Temple University Center for Sustainable Communities. As this ties into our Project Headwaters Project, this meeting will have a direct bearing on our future conservation endeavors.

Of special note, coming next December is Wendell 'Ozzie' Ozefovich. His videos and underwater photography of trout are well known. Now you can meet him, ask him questions, and even purchase one of his videos at 20% less retail value.

Hope to see you soon.

Outside the Box By Rich Terry

Why I ride a bike...

As many of you out there, I am over 50 and enjoy the outdoors. In the spring and summer I will be wetting a line, weather it's in Bucks County, the Pocono's or up north in Maine. This sometimes requires an hour hike back into the far reaches of a stream. Where the fishing pressure is low or nonexistent. It could also mean walking a mile on the beach just to find the right structures, then standing in chest deep water while the waves pound you.

In the fall I enjoy upland hunting – Pheasant, Grouse & Woodcock and a puddle duck here and there. It could be here in Pennsylvania or also in Maine. Busting bush or working my way through a tangle of trees waiting for a bird to flush require endurance.

During the winter I will snowshoe (if we have any snow) or just take the dogs for a three-hour hike.

I have a son that also enjoys the outdoors and will keep me busy when we get together.

To do this, I ride a bike to build my strength and to keep my endurance. It is also a way to vent any anger from working inside all day pushing a mouse around. During the milder months, I will be out riding my road bike. During the colder months, I will be riding my mountain bike along the trails enjoying the outdoors.

Riding is just another excuse to be outside rather than working on a project around the house. No matter what time of year it is, I would much rather be outside then working out in a gym.



Wilderness Fishing Near Philadelphia By Richard Ulrych

How far do you have to go from Philadelphia to find a wilderness lake or stream? The answer is not very far.

Growing up in the Philadelphia area, I dreamed of fishing pristine lakes and streams, but I always assumed I had to travel a distance to find them. When I came back to the area a few years ago, I decided to look for wilderness waters near to home.



Some hold brook trout; some hold brown trout; and some hold a mix of two.

The rugged terrain along these streams makes a day's fishing a bit physically demanding, of the streams and their surroundings makes the effort worthwhile.

What I have found are wonderful, clear, cold trout streams, where you are more likely to meet a bear than a person, that are within an hour's drive and a thirty minute hike from the Mid-County Tolls. As you can see from the photos, these are not babbling brooks but fast moving streams, surprisingly deep in spots, that surge down the sides of mountains, shielded by dense forests and steep valleys.



Calendar of events

April

- 3 - Board of Directors meeting
- 10 - Membership meeting 7:30 at the Trust
- 14 - Opening Day for Trout outside of Southeast Pa.
- 28 - Rotary Club fishing derby at Lorimer Park

May

- 1 - Board of Directors meeting
- 8 - Membership meeting 7:30 at the Trust
- 19+20 - Chapter trip to Penn's Creek
- 26- Fish for free day

June

- 3—Fish for free day
- 5 - Board of Directors meeting
- 12 - Membership meeting 7:30 at the Trust
- 16—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

Board Members at Large

- Mike Wilson
- Richard Terry
- Bill McNamara

Project Chairman

Mike Wilson

Banquet Chairman

Richard Terry

Membership Chairman

Bill McNamara

Youth Chairman

John Beck

Webmaster

Walt Kononenko

Activities Chairman

Al Kahoun

Refreshment Chairman

John D'Orazio

Newsletter Editor

Al Kahoun



Southeastern Montgomery County
 Trout Unlimited
 P.O. Box 154
 Abington, Pa. 19001

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