



TALE OF THE POOL

SPRING 2006

OFFICERS:

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Vice President-Eugene Gordon
Treasurer-Bernie Manyak
Secretary-Al Budinsky

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Dave Gilpin
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COMMITTEES:

Resource Mgt.-Tom Shetterly
Nursery-Rick McClintock
Banquet- Eugene Gordon
Membership-Al Budinsky
Youth Education-Tom Wilson

Upcoming Events:

- Membership Meeting, May 10, 2006 Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm.
- Beaver Creek Outing, Friday, June 2, 2006, Daybreak.
- Membership Meeting, June 14, 2006 Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm.
- CRTU Family Picnic, Saturday, July 8, 2006 Yough Tailrace
- Dunbar Creek Stream Restoration, August 12, 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On March 25th, CRTU held it's 11th annual banquet at the Holiday Inn in Uniontown. We had over 200 attendees and it was a great success for the chapter. Once again, a big thank-you to Banquet chairman Eugene Gordon and his family for all their hard work. A great time was had by all and it was great to see many active members winning prizes in our raffle. Every year CRTU gives an award to honor an individual or group that has shown outstanding effort in furthering the Trout Unlimited mission statement. This year's recipient was the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp held at the Yellow Breeches every year to teach youth the art of fly fishing and conservation. Rod Cross of the Cumberland Valley Chapter accepted the award.

Spring has come upon us in a hurry, and the thoughts on many of our minds were the low stream conditions in our area. Fortunately, we have experienced some nice steady rains over the last few days. The low flows also hindered the chapter's ability to stock trout from our nursery. Also, due to circumstances beyond our control we were not able to receive the needed trout food for the nursery. However, Tick has promised three square meals a



Youghiogheny River

day for the remaining trout and we will begin stocking again soon. Check our website for dates and times.

On April 8th the Chapter participated in our annual Dunbar Creek clean-up. Thanks to all who helped. There wasn't as much trash as in other years which was a good thing. Ben Moyer and I were laughing that we seemed to be picking up more water bottles than beer cans. Ben joked that this could

be a bad sign in that the culprits are leading a healthier life style and will probably live longer!

CRTU received a \$100,000 grant from Fayette County for the Morgan Run AMD project. The chapter has also applied for a Natural Stream Design (NSD) grant for Dunbar Creek. NSD removes man made structures from streams and returns them to their natural origin. (cont. on page 2)

DWIGHT LANDIS MAY 10TH MEETING!

For our May 10th membership meeting CRTU is excited to bring author Dwight Landis to present his program on Fly fishing for Wild Trout on Pennsylvania's Forested Freestone Streams. Dwight will present a slide show about fishing for native brook trout and wild brown trout in the forested streams of the state, mostly within public lands such as state forests and state game lands. These streams provide a really fun fishing experience and a great alternative to the more famous, but heavily fished limestone streams and delayed harvest areas. They are scenic, quiet, less crowded, and you often see wild life while fishing them. There are so many miles of these headwater streams that it would be nearly impossible for one person to fish them all in a lifetime. His presentation will show many photos of these scenic mountain streams and the colorful wild trout they hold, and discuss how to have a successful trip. He will also discuss tackle, fishing techniques, flies, best times to fish and will bring along an assortment of maps, and discuss how to use them to explore the streams. Dwight Landis is the author of "Trout Streams of Pennsylvania: An Angler's Guide."

DANCES WITH BEARS ON MEADOW RUN

Over the years Denny Rosatti and I have had our share of hair raising adventures while angling the Yough watershed. One night leaving Dunbar Creek with only the moon to guide us out we were met by a copperhead waving it's head ready to strike. Our encounters with bears have been numerous, but since we have been in no real danger, also amusing. One night on the Yough near the Connellsville Sportsman Club a bear bounced out of the bushes down from Den. We preceded to watch the bear swim across the Yough, shake off and continue on it's way.

Last week Den called me and I could tell he was anxious to tell me about something. He had decided to get a little fishing in at Meadow Run Saturday afternoon. Fishing until about 7 pm he decided to call it quits and started walking out from the cascades on the trail. Normally we cut back to the stream to fish our way up but Den decided to follow the trail out instead. His fly had come off so he stopped and turned around to dislodge it from a log. When he turned around not more than 30 feet in front of him was a bear...a really big bear. Den knew he had startled it and watched in disbelief as the bear starting running straight towards him! I asked what he did and he told me all he was thinking was "I'm a dead man". He said he pretty much froze and remembered throwing his rod and kneeling down, covering his face. As he knelt he could feel the bear brush pass him!

Seeing the bear run south, Den hightailed it north, running as fast as his boots and waders would allow. When he stopped, his heart felt like it was going to come out of his chest. He told me if he didn't have a heart attack then he never will. Just then he realized he had left his rod so he carefully walked back to the scene only to find his St Croix rod busted into pieces. Finally back at the bridge he spied an angler reeling in a rainbow over 20 inches long. When Den went for his camera to take a picture for the man, he realized that it had fallen out of his pocket and another trek back was in order. Fortunately he found the camera, albeit a little muddy, but not damaged. I made the comment he probably didn't want to fish Meadow Run in the near future, but Den said it's like getting back on the bike after you fall, you got to do it.

Here are some guidelines if you encounter a black bear. Courtesy of "Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

If you encounter a bear in the wild, give it plenty of room and try to avoid any contact by slowly backing away and leaving the area. If the bear charges at you, it is most likely to be a "bluff charge" where the bear "stops short". Bluff charges are designed to frighten you off or to assert dominance; do your best to appear imposing. Huddle together if in a group, raise your hands or backpack in the air to appear larger, and make plenty of noise. Unless you have come between a sow and her cubs (or you are simply unlucky), you will probably succeed in scaring it away. Avoid eye contact with the bear. A bear that rears up on its hind legs is not necessarily signaling aggression; a black bear's range of view is three feet off the ground whereas a human's is between five and six. It is trying to get a look at what you are and if you are a threat. If you hear the bear making a popping sound with its jaw, it is warning you that it is uncomfortable. That is a sign to slowly back away (if possible) and leave the area. Headlong flight should be avoided because the bear will normally interpret that as a sign of weakness. If the bear charges and doesn't "stop short" but makes actual physical contact with you, you must fight back. Use whatever you have close on hand to attempt to injure it so that it no longer finds you worth the fight. In particular, aim for the nose as it is a sensitive part of the bear. The bear's thick skull makes blows to the top and side of the head nearly useless. It is not uncommon for black bears to disengage after being injured; pepper spray in the eyes has been known to work but one needs to be fairly close to the bear to hit the eyes with the spray. If fighting the bear does not seem like a wise choice, consider other options. If you play dead, black bears, unlike grizzlies who may leave you alone, will eat you or drag you away. You cannot outrun a black bear. Climbing a tree is futile since black bears excel at climbing trees. Retreat is usually the best option but your retreat must be slow and methodical, backing away from the bear. The rules applicable to brown bear encounters are not the same as those applicable to black bear encounters. Brown bear are more likely to make bluff charges and conduct knock-down attacks to defend cubs or a kill. They may also smack the ground, bark and clack their teeth together as part of a defensive posturing to keep humans and other animals at bay. Black bear are much less likely to engage in this kind of defensive behavior. Sows are less likely to defend their cubs with force, beyond a slashing attack to the eyes and face. In most cases of black bear attack the bears exhibit classic predatory behavior. They will not bark, clack teeth or make noise. Rather, they will simply approach at a measured pace and attack the human as prey. The calm appearance of the black bear may have lured some of their victims into a false sense of security. A black bear calmly and steadily approaching who is not bothered by yelling or thrown objects should be considered extremely dangerous. Because black bear are much less likely to be conducting a purely defensive attack, "playing dead" is never an appropriate response with them.

Allen Tedrow

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Although we have been frustrated with the progress of our AMD projects, I am optimistic these streams will return. I would like to acknowledge DEP Biologist Rob Ryder's interest and help in our projects. This summer, CRTU will continue building the Deep-Water Habitat structures to deposit in the Yough Reservoir. On May 24th we will be meeting with the USACE to further discuss the leasing of the residential houses above the campground at the spillway. Our goal is to turn one into an environmental center, providing water conservation and youth groups a place to conduct workshops. Also, one of the nets at the nursery is in need of repair, and what we really need is a diver to inspect the damage. By any chance if any member knows someone who scuba dives please contact Tick McClintock.

CRTU is now having Board of Directors meeting every month a week before the membership meeting. We have found this schedule very effective in resolving more of the time consuming "business" of the chapter. Also, this has given us more time at the membership meetings for programs and guest speakers. All members are welcome at board meetings and we value your input. I believe the chapter is off to a good start this year with a lot of exciting stuff happening. And we seem to be having fun too. Help is always needed, so if you are new to the chapter or have been away for a while please considering joining us for a meeting or outing.

Take care...

Allen Tedrow

President CRTU

JONATHAN RUN: UPDATE AND INSPIRATION

BEN MOYER

As reported in the last newsletter, CRTU is engaged in facilitating the restoration of Jonathan Run, a beautiful mountain stream that flows briefly through SGL 51, and then tumbles and churns for several miles through Ohiopyle State Park to its union with the Youghiogheny River. Jonathan Run was once an approved trout stream, stocked with brook trout by the PA Fish Commission. Anglers who opted for this small stream fishing experience enjoyed the chance to catch trout amid a spectacular setting of waterfalls, deep pools and streamside hemlock and rhododendron. Many anglers believed they caught native trout in Jonathan's lower reaches.

In the early 1990s, a pollution event associated with surface coal mining in the headwaters, caused the Commission to drop Jonathan Run from its stocking list. A unique recreational experience, almost entirely on public land, has been lost to anglers and nature-enthusiasts ever since.

On April 10 several CRTU members had an opportunity to tour the Jonathan Run watershed with DEP Water Pollution Biologist, Rob Ryder. Rob is no stranger to CRTU. As a graduate student at California University, he played a critically important role in the early stages of our Glade Run Project.

The objective of the Jonathan Run tour was to collect samples of macro-invertebrate life in the stream's main stem, and compare those to samples taken in Blackberry Run. Blackberry is a small tributary believed to be in nearly pristine condition. Ryder and his assistant took samples by holding a fine-mesh net in the flow, while disturbing the streambed immediately above, hoping to catch insects and other organisms in the net. The biologists then transferred their samples to a screen-bottomed bucket, and then into labeled glass jars.

Ryder sampled Jonathan Run's main stem first, immediately above the confluence with Blackberry Run. Later they sampled Blackberry, which appears healthy compared to its receiving stream. Blackberry's rocks are covered with lush moss, and the stream bottom appears dark and inviting. By comparison, Jonathan appears barren and bleached. Its rocks are void of moss. Ryder attributed the stream's poor appearance to precipitated aluminum, leached out by acidic flows.

Rob's own words by email after the sampling communicate the situation: "...in looking at the bugs from Jonathan and Blackberry, it's like night and day," he wrote. "Out of the entire sample on Jonathan above Blackberry, I only had about 229 bugs, most were acid and metal tolerant; I had one mayfly (ephemerella) which I think was an immigrant from Blackberry. Blackberry had about 8 times more bugs, and was incredibly diverse—it is a classic healthy mountain stream."



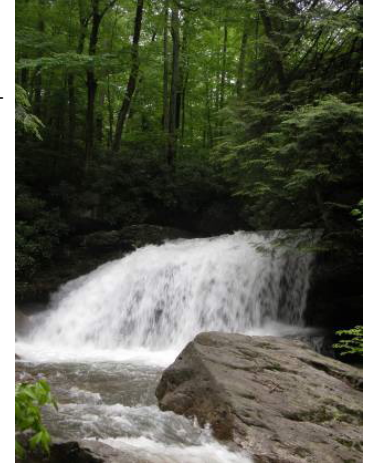
CRTU members expected the results. The sample bucket from Blackberry Run literally crawled with life—crayfish, mayfly and stonefly nymphs, caddis, mollusks and worms.

Ryder also took chemical samples during his visit, and the results are encouraging. Rob reports that the chemical characteristics of Jonathan, above Blackberry, are actually slightly better than on Glade Run before CRTU began the Alkaline Sand Project there. What the stream needs, Rob said, is alkalinity. He predicts that if we can get the alkalinity within an acceptable range, it will neutralize the toxic effects of the aluminum in the stream. Tom Shetterly, Al Budinsky and others have been working with DEP and the original coal operator to design and implement a treatment system. Prospects appear good if technical details can be resolved.

If Jonathan Run can be restored to a healthy stream, it would be a tremendous contribution to the attractiveness and quality of life in Fayette County's mountain region. Nearly the entire course flows through one of the most heavily visited state parks in Pennsylvania. Hundreds of thousands of white-water boaters are bussed across the Jonathan Run bridge every summer.

Thousands of anglers, hikers, and campers could enjoy the stream if the restoration proves successful.

As the weather warms and the spring fishing winds down, a worthwhile CRTU project might be to organize a walking tour of Jonathan Run within the state park. An existing hiking trail follows the stream from a parking lot to the river. Along the way, we could show anglers, political leaders, and potential funding contributors the uniquely beautiful character of this stream. Such a tour would help us to convey the message of the importance of these mountain stream resources to our region's future.



Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited
Chapter #670
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We're on the Web!
www.crtu.org

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Trout Unlimited's Chestnut Ridge Chapter has been a leader in coldwater conservation in southwestern Pennsylvania since 1995. With its efforts focused on the watershed of the Youghiogheny River, Chestnut Ridge TU works for cleaner streams, public awareness of water quality issues, and high quality trout fishing for the region's residents and visitors.



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Official Newsletter of CRTU

LAST CAST: FROM THE EDITOR

Friday, June 2nd is planned for CRTU's annual Beaver Creek outing. Cost for CRTU members is \$50 which includes fishing Beaver Creek, food and refreshments. Some members have asked for the outing to be on a weekend, but weekend dates are reserved for members of the Beaver Creek club. We will be there at day break until dark. Any interested members can sign up at the May membership meeting or call Eugene Gordon at 724-277-8688. If you are not familiar with Beaver Creek, visit their web site at www.beavercreekanglers.com.

The annual CRTU family picnic is scheduled for July 8, 2006, (which also happens to be a close friend of mine's 50th birthday.) I will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a covered dish and your fishing gear. Look for us at the pavilion at the USACE campground at the tailrace in Confluence.

Congratulations to member Pat McKula and his wife Lisa, on the birth of their son Ryan Patrick, born April 3, 2006. Pat designed our web site and used to fish a lot. Hopefully Pat can find some time between work and midnight feedings to hit the streams.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our May 10th meeting as we present author Dwight Landis for his program on fly fishing for wild trout. Thanks to member Al Budinsky for making this possible. Check our web site for directions to the Knights of Columbus in Uniontown.

Tom Shetterly is still awaiting approval for the PFBC Southwest Region 2 commissioner position. I don't know of anyone more qualified. Let's hope the senate votes on this soon.

Thanks to Ben Moyer for his excellent article on Jonathan Run. The Summer 2006 will be mailed around the end of June. If anyone has something of interest please submit it to me by June 14, 2006.

I hope everyone can get out and enjoy spring time in Penn's Woods. See you on the stream!

Allen Tedrow

CAMPER FOR SALE!

For Sale: 1997 Coleman pop-up trailer. I am offering a 5% discount to CRTU members. I will also donate another 5% to the chapter. It has two king size beds, a couch area, frig, hot water, a sway bar, and three Yakima bike racks. It can sleep six comfortably and is in excellent condition. My asking price is \$4500. Call 724-925-1290 if you are interested.