



TALE OF THE POOL

SPRING 2007

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Vice President-Scott Hoffman
Treasurer-Bernie Manyak
Secretary-Deb Simko

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Membership Meeting, May 9, 2007, Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm.
- Beaver Creek Outing, June 1, 2007
- Membership Meeting, June 13, 2007, Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm.
- CRTU Family Picnic, July 2007, Yough Tailrace

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On April 7, 2006, CRTU held it's annual Dunbar Creek clean up. This is in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Adopt A Highway Program. We pick up trash for a two mile section of State Rt. 1055 where it parallels with Dunbar Creek. Thanks to all who attended and remember to always carry a trash bag with you when you fish Dunbar to do your part to keep this stream litter free.

Our annual banquet was held March 24th and was a great fundraising success for the chapter. Eugene Gordon and family did an incredible job planning this years event. Many thanks to the banquet committee and non chapter volunteers for all their help. Big winners included long time member Harry Prytulak. Harry won a fly rod, gift certificate, wildlife print, a fishing jacket and a travel cooler. Way to go, Harry!

The Pennsylvania Game Commission was the recipient of the chapter's Meritorious Service Award for Coldwater Conservation. Scott Tomlinson, Game Commission Land Management Group Supervisor for Fayette and Somerset counties, accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

Perhaps you have heard of the recent decision by the Department of Environmental Protection Grant center to exclude CRTU and all PA



chapters from being eligible for Growing Greener II grants. The DEP have now stated that CRTU needs to be incorporated or must find an eligible sponsor in order to proceed with the Growing Greener grants. National Trout Unlimited policy does not encourage chapters to incorporate and CRTU has no interest to do so.

Trout Unlimited is a corporation and has millions of dollars for liability coverage. The chapter does not understand why the grant center is accepting us as a 501 (c) (3) under national's umbrella but not their status as a corporation. This policy creates a burden for one

of the most passionate grass roots organization in the state committed to cleaning Pennsylvania streams destroyed by acid mine damage. I have made national and Pennsylvania Council aware of this situation.

Consequently, CRTU has obtained the Fayette County Conservation District to be our sponsor for the comprehensive stream corridor assessment of lower Dunbar Creek. The chapter commends VP Scott Hoffman for his hard work administrating the grant and obtaining a sponsor.

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BEAVER CREEK OUTING JUNE 1, 2006

Our annual Beaver Creek outing will be held on Friday, June 1, 2006 starting at daybreak until dark. The cost is \$55 for CRTU members which includes fishing, food and refreshments. Meet at the pavilion to sign in. If you have never fished Beaver Creek be prepared to see some real monster trout! This year CRTU has rented Beaver Cabin for Friday night. Details will be forthcoming. If you are planning on attending be sure to sign up at the May membership meeting or contact Eugene Gordon at 724-277-8688. For more information on Beaver Creek anglers visit their website at www.beavercreekanglers.com. Did someone say Green Drakes ?!

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING GLOBAL WARMING THE SCIENCE AND IMPACTS ON FISH AND WILDLIFE

Although global warming has been studied for over 100 years, it has only been in the past 50 years that scientists have been increasingly raising concerns over what they see as a major threat to our planet and way of life. In fact, this is one of the few instances when scientists are sounding the alarm, while many of our fellow citizens remain unconcerned.

Global warming is here, and observant sportsmen and conservationists are already seeing its effects. Unless we begin, right now, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our children's view of wildlife will be much different from ours. Although its effects cannot be known with absolute certainty, scientists predict a hotter climate will adversely affect brook trout; likely increase mortality on smallmouth bass due to bacterial infections and lower dissolved oxygen levels; increase the decline in amphibians; reduce waterfowl populations due to drought in the prairie pothole region; and cause mobile species to shift their range north.

Ed Perry is an aquatic biologist who retired in 2002 after a 30-year career with US Fish and Wildlife Service in State College, PA, where he worked to protect streams and wetlands in Pennsylvania from unwise development. In 2007, Ed began working for the National Wildlife Federation on their Global Warming Campaign. His mission is to organize the hunter/angler and conservation community around the issue of global warming so that we can persuade decision makers to support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and take action on our own to reduce our own emissions. Ed writes:

"I spent my career working to protect streams and wetlands and now have embarked on a new mission. As of February 2007, I am the National Wildlife Federation's global warming outreach specialist. This new position will allow me to use my passion to help arouse my fellow hunters and anglers to protect our great country's fish and wildlife resources from possibly the greatest threat they have ever faced. Make no mistake: our planet is getting warmer and we are responsible. Even the business community recognizes the threat. Corporations such as Shell, Intel, DuPoint, General Electric, Alcoa, and General Motors have spoken out about global warming and want to help reduce the impact. Corporate leaders have formed a coalition called the U.S. Climate Action Partnership and have wrote to President Bush urging prompt action to establish a coordinated, economy-wide market-driven approach to climate protection."

Please join CRTU in welcoming Ed Perry for our May membership meeting on May 9, 2006. Ed will be presenting his program on global warming and it's impact on fish and wildlife. The world is beginning to react to this threat to our country's fish and wildlife resources and CRTU and Ed are hopeful our fellow sportsman will weigh in on this as they have done so often on major threats to our natural resource heritage. Membership meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus in Uniontown PA, starting at 7pm.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF: INTO THE WILD BY JON KRAKAUER

While recently packing for vacation, my wife made me promise not to pack a book about fly-fishing. "You need to expand your horizons," she said. Grudgingly, I complied with her wish and considering my interest in jazz and American history, I grabbed "Straight Life," an autobiography of jazz saxophonist Art Pepper and "Digging Up Butch and Sundance," about the lives and times of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid in Argentina before their death in Bolivia. I then spied a book on the shelf I had recently borrowed from my nephew. Besides fishing I also enjoy backpacking, and have hiked the Whites, the Smokies, Zion, Yosemite and part of the Appalachian Trail (AT) I have met quite a few "through-hikers" on the AT, and all seem to have some of the same intricate characteristics. A certain bond, that you can recognize immediately when you start a conversation. Many have made an impression on me, and Chris McCandless is no exception.

Into The Wild, written by Jon Krakauer and author of Into Thin Air and Eiger Dreams, is a fascinating study of the life and final days of hiker Christopher McCandless. McCandless, a young man from a well-to-do family, graduated from college, gave \$25,000 to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions and invented a new life for himself. Four months later his remains were found by a moose hunter in Alaska. Reading almost like a mystery novel, Krakauer explores the many theories of what caused McCandless' retreat from society and his ultimate demise. Sprinkled with interesting stories of other unfortunate souls who met a similar fate, Krakauer relates to his protagonist, seeing himself in the young man who enters the wilderness in search of more than just "bagging some peaks."

Krakauer's interest in McCandless began with his 1993 article for Outside magazine. The article generated a lot of correspondence in the back packing community and stirred a need in Krakauer to dig deeper into the mystery. He writes of it in the books forward: "I was haunted by the particulars of the boy's starvation and the vague, unsettling parallels between events in his life and those in my own. Unwilling to let McCandless go, I spent more than a year retracing the convoluted path that led to his death in Alaska taiga, chasing down details of his peregrinations with an interest that bordered on obsession. In trying to understand McCandless, I inevitably came to reflect on other, larger subjects as well: the grip wilderness has on the American imagination, the allure high-risk activities hold for young men of a certain mind, the complicated, highly charged bond that exists between fathers and sons."

A sign of a good book is one that you are still thinking about days later. This is one of them.

Allen Tedrow

TROUT DREAMS

FROM OUTBACK: REFLECTIONS FROM THE APPALACHIAN OUTDOORS

BY BEN MOYER

One of the benefits of being an outdoors person is that you always have something to look forward to. At this time of year winter's gray grip seems endless to some folks, while big city weathermen whine on. But outdoor die-hards sense something on time's cyclic horizon. They know spring is on its way, and they've got lots of anticipating to do before it gets here.

My wife Kathy says that one of the ways she tracks the seasons is by the ever-evolving pile of reading material that accumulates by the bed—always a couple of months ahead of some outdoor event or transition. About now, as the days lengthen a little, and the rising sun creeps farther north along the line of Laurel Ridge, the technical tomes on whitetail behavior and the tweedy lines of old-time grouse scribes are being replaced by one predominant theme—trout. One book is a humorous confession of lifelong trout addiction. Another—Hemingway's short stories—features "Big Two-Hearted River," an eerie marriage of the here-and-now and the mystical, all stitched together with trout fishing.

For some reason, or reasons, no other approaching outdoor theme has quite the allure of trout. Each late-winter they return, lurking in dark pools of our consciousness like sea-run salmon back from some unknown ocean. They fin quietly at first, resting from the journey. Then, as the spring and the season draw close, they stir in the stream. They rise to the surface of our thoughts and hold and dart there in the light, irrepressible.

It's true enough that deer hunting boils the blood in the weeks before Thanksgiving, but that's more of a climax; anticipation builds, then peaks and cools quickly. It's the exclamation point on the outdoorsman's year. Trout fishing is different. It represents wider possibility, a beginning, a seasonal beckoning of the earth itself to observe, analyze and come to know good places better. It invites experimentation and rewards curiosity—no wonder we're drawn. No wonder we dream.

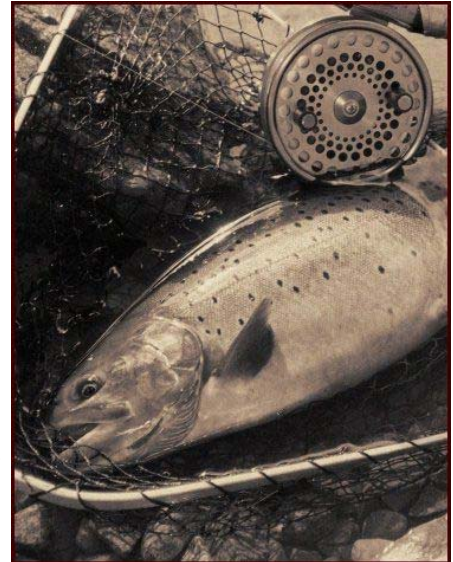
I suspect the attraction to trout is rooted in both an ancient familiarity and a natural human fascination with the radically different. Our ancestors' ancestors must have come to know trout well as both spread across and around the northern hemisphere. Their meeting was inevitable, as humans sought out pockets of relative warmth and trout flourished wherever water evaded glacial ice to flow as a liquid. Trout meant life itself, whenever they could be found and had. Today, we covet the same sleek form, sculpted by the cold currents calved from a mantle of ice.

Trout may be familiar, but they are also fascinating. Look into the lives of trout long enough and, at some point, the fish itself becomes more interesting than the fishing. We admire them because they do not compromise on things we routinely accept as unavoidable. They demand clean water, which requires living, healthy land. Once that's altered, by our own compromise, perhaps, they are gone, retreating from the advancing sprawl as their own ancestors fled downstream before the unstoppable ice.

We admire, too, their union with a physical place. Watch a trout sometime that knows where he's at—not a hatchery trout that's stunned and disoriented, but a wild trout, hatched from the gravel beneath its own pectoral fins. The trout knows not only the rocks and concealing shade, but the current itself. He plays the current like a hawk on a thermal, balanced, always, between the conservation of internal energy and the hunt for new sources. Somehow the trout knows when it's worthwhile to strike, then drifts back toward his own shadow.

Finally, I think, we're drawn to trout because no matter how much we admire them and dream of them, no matter how many we fool and catch, trout remain somehow unattainable. They are aloof in a way that goes beyond other wildlife. A trout held in the hand at the surface may appear to be your possession, but when the silver bar of muscle quivers and writhes, you know you are holding more than a fish; you are holding the essence of the living land around you. Kill the fish and you creel nothing but organic molecules.

Release it and you must try again, wondering if one more trout will get you closer to the mystery.



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.



Tale of the Pool
Official Newsletter of CRTU

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The trout from the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program were successfully released in Meadow Run on April 23rd. The class also took water samples and then visited our nursery. A photographer from the Greene County newspaper took pictures of the students and the trout in the tank at Margaret Bell Miller Middle School before their release. Congratulations to Youth Education Chairman Tom Wilson, science teacher Dave Fowler and the students for a job well done!

CRTU trout stockings will soon be underway. If any member wants to help the chapter stock trout please sign up at the May membership meeting. If you are a sponsor of a youth group and are interested in receiving trout donated by the chapter please contact Tick McClintock at 724-322-0757. The chapter has also purchased two marine batteries for our tanks and replacement netting for the front cage. A work detail will be needed to replace the netting, details will be forthcoming.

The CRTU annual family picnic is scheduled for a Saturday in July. The exact date will be discussed at the May meeting. The chapter usually stocks trout in the morning and starts the picnic around noon. Members are asked to bring a covered dish and I'll be cooking the burgers and dogs on the grill.

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend the upcoming membership meetings. Thanks to Ben Moyer for his contribution to this issue. Look for the summer 2007 issue of Tale of the Pool the first week of July. Visit our website at www.crtu.org for the latest news of the chapter.



Harry Prytulak shows off his haul

Take care,
Allen Tedrow
President CRTU