



TALE OF THE POOL

SPRING 2008

OFFICERS:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Al Budinsky
Lou Giovannelli
Eugene Gordon
Ben Moyer
Tom Shetterly
Allen Tedrow
Rick Young

COMMITTEES:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Membership Meeting:
March 12, 2008, Knights of
Columbus, Uniontown, PA
7:00 pm.
- CRTU Annual Banquet:
Holiday Inn, Uniontown,
PA. March 29, 2008 5:00
pm
- Dunbar Creek Clean-up!
April 5, 2008
- Membership Meeting: April
9, 2008, Gander Mountain,
Washington, PA 7:00 pm

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I was first approached to succeed Allen Tedrow as president I declined. The reason I cited was that my family, my job, and fishing would prevent me from devoting the time necessary to be Chapter president. I thought someone else in the Chapter would volunteer and be just as qualified as I. As I began to reflect on my decision it occurred to me, if not me, who else? My initial though process is one of the biggest challenges the Chapter faces. We need to recruit new members and have better participation at Chapter meetings, work parties, stockings, etc. from existing and new members. In an effort to recruit new members April's Chapter meeting will be held at the Washington Gander Mountain. More importantly, we need new and existing members to continue our outstanding record of environmental stewardship as evidenced by our projects. A brief summary of the Chapter's projects is as follows:

CRTU members discovered two 4-inch pipes buried under ground, discharging untreated mine water onto state game lands and into Jonathan Run. "Deliberately polluting a stream and then concealing it to avoid any obligation to treat acid mine discharge will not



Barronvale Covered Bridge over Laurel Hill Creek

be tolerated," said DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty. As such, the DEP has issued orders to mitigate the pollution. In time, we hope to restore Jonathan Run to its prior "exceptional value" classification.

The acquisition of an easement to construct the Morgan Run AMD project is nearly complete. The project must be completed by June 30 2008 before the grants that have previously been extended expire. The chapter is working diligently to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

In the Dunbar Creek Corridor Assessment Growing Greener funded project three" priority" sites have been identified: 1) Near the shooting range where the creek is undermining SR 1055. 2) Near the confluence of Gist Run where a 24-inch diameter waterline crosses the stream preventing fish migration. 3) In Dunbar where natural stream design could replace concrete wall and rip rap in a currently proposed project. Future focus of the project will include developing rehabilitation prescription and cost estimates for the priority sites. (Continued on page 2)

CRTU ANNUAL BANQUET! MARCH 29, 2008

CRTU's annual fund-raising banquet will be held Saturday March 29, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Uniontown. This is the chapter's main source of funds so do your best to attend and contribute to the good work of the Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited. We have expanded the menu this year to 3 choices: stuffed chicken breast, stuffed pork chop or orange roughy. CRTU's banquet is famous for its huge raffle of camping and fishing equipment, outstanding wild life prints and a guaranteed good time. Cocktails start at 5:30 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Cost per ticket is \$35.

To order tickets call Eugene Gordon at 724-277-8688. Please make Eugene's job a little easier by reserving your tickets early. Members can also help set up Saturday morning at the Holiday Inn.

CRTU GOES ON THE ROAD! APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO BE HELD AT GANDER MOUNTAIN IN WASHINGTON PA

For the April Membership meeting, CRTU will be temporarily changing locations. In an effort to reach out to CRTU members in Washington County, we will have our meeting at Gander Mountain in Washington County. As a special treat for our members, CRTU welcomes back Dwight Landis, author of Trout Streams of Pennsylvania; An Angler's Guide.

Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited Presents!

"Fly-fishing and Exploring Pennsylvania's Wild Trout Streams" with Dwight Landis Wednesday, April 9th, 2008.

Dwight Landis, author of Trout Streams of Pennsylvania; An Angler's Guide, will present a slide show about fly fishing for trout in Pennsylvania. Dwight's program will cover a large variety of streams, with an emphasis on streams with wild trout populations. The beauty and feistiness of wild trout make these streams particularly enjoyable. The program will include descriptions of both well known streams and more obscure waters, including a discussion of the fertile limestone streams of central PA, which are a popular destination for many fishermen. These streams are primarily brown trout fisheries, and include Spring Creek, Penn's Creek, Fishing Creek, Little Juniata River and others. He will also thoroughly explore what he calls "Mountain Stream" fishing, which is 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 more crowded streams. These "woody" streams are scenic, quiet, un-crowded, and you often see wildlife while fishing them. His program includes photos of trout streams, wild trout, scenic landscapes and waterfalls. (And bears!)

There will be plenty of time after the program to ask Dwight any questions you may have about PA trout fishing. Come join us for this evening of exploring PA trout fishing!

Our membership meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. Dwight will begin his presentation at 8:00 pm. Please spread the word to your fishing buddies who may not be a TU member. Everyone is welcome!



FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Hopefully you have read the excellent article by CRTU Secretary Deb Simko in the Spring 08 Pennsylvania Trout newsletter about the Laurel Hill Creek watershed plan. The objective of this growing greener funded project, started in June 2007, is to develop a water resources management plan for the Laurel Hill Creek Watershed. Current findings indicate the average amount of water withdrawn from both the surface water and ground water systems is about 2.17 million gallons per day. It is our hope that the information gathered and documented in the plan (available in 2009) will be used by local officials to direct sensible use of land and water in the basin that will benefit both the people and the aquatic stream life.

Our annual Dunbar Creek clean-up will be held Saturday, April 5, 2008, at 8:00 am. 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. Meet at the Game Commission shed at the dirt road.

I look forward to seeing you on a stream or better yet at a Chapter event.

Scott Hoffman
President CRTU



DEP's Rob Ryder, Page Wetterberg, and CRTU Secretary Deb Simko gather data from Laurel Hill

NEWS FROM PENNS WOODS

For those of you who have been following the case of Pennsylvania's suit against parties who were claiming ownership of what the Commonwealth has established is a navigable river:

As you may recall, last year around this time the Huntingdon County Court decided strongly in favor of the Commonwealth plaintiffs. Judge Kurtz ruled that the Little Juniata River is navigable-in-fact, and therefore the Commonwealth is the owner of the river bed in trust for the benefit of the public. Consequently, the defendants Donny Beaver, Connie Espy, Spring Ridge Club, Paradise Outfitters, et al., lacked any basis for excluding the public from fishing in these waters, and the Court issued an injunction to that effect.

Since that time, Mr. Beaver and his co-defendants appealed the matter to the PA Commonwealth Court. They filed their brief in November 2007. In January, the Commonwealth filed its comprehensive brief in response. On the day this week that Beaver et al. were to file their reply brief, they informed the other parties that they were instead withdrawing their appeal. Thus ends this saga, and the Commonwealth remains victorious. This was a cooperative effort among the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection, the Fish & Boat Commission, and the Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources. Also significantly involved for many years has been Allan Bright, owner of Spruce Creek Outfitters, as well as some stellar witnesses on behalf of the Commonwealth, most notably a professional historian who provided remarkable insight to a fascinating time in our nation's history.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania announced that it has secured one of the largest natural resources damage settlements in state history. Under terms of the settlement, Norfolk Southern will pay \$7.35 million to resolve its civil liability for a June 2006 derailment in McKean County that polluted and killed fish and other aquatic life in Big Fill Run, Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek and the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek. As part of the agreement, Norfolk Southern will pay \$3,675,000 each to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The settlement agreement focuses on contamination of the environment that occurred on June 30, 2006, when approximately 31 rail cars of a train operated by Norfolk Southern derailed near Gardeau, McKean County. During the derailment, liquid sodium hydroxide spilled from three railcars into wetlands and entered Big Fill Run, a tributary of the Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek that flows through McKean County and into Cameron County. From Big Fill Run, the spilled sodium hydroxide traveled down Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek, which flows into the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek. This release of liquid sodium hydroxide contaminated soils, sediments, surface water, groundwater, and wetlands, and killed or damaged fish and other aquatic life and terrestrial plant and animal life.

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty refuted recent media reports stating that the commonwealth has decided not to fund abandoned mine drainage projects. The secretary said these projects will continue to be funded through the department's abandoned mine reclamation program this year and beyond. McGinty said that since 2003, Pennsylvania has invested \$17.5 million in abandoned mine lands funding on acid mine drainage treatment for streams. The commonwealth has also targeted more than \$62 million from the Growing Greener II program for abandoned mine reclamation projects.

This state and federal money has supported 70 acid mine drainage treatment projects. "Reports that the department will not provide funding for acid mine drainage treatment projects are false," said McGinty. "The Governor remains firmly committed to using all available resources to restore our land and water that was damaged by mining before environmental laws were put in place to prevent this kind pollution."



Little Juniata River

RIVERS CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING CAMP

Good evening on behalf of the board of directors of the Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp! I hope that this letter finds you well, and that this Pennsylvania winter has been kind to you. Although the 2008 camp is four months away, students, instructors, and staff are beginning to prepare right now. As always, we look to the Pennsylvania chapters of Trout Unlimited to encourage teenagers to apply to the camp. Last year we had the privilege of having an excellent group of young men and women. Out of the 32, 18 students were sponsored by 15 different chapters.

I would like to say thank you for encouraging students in the past, as every group of teenagers has been receptive and rewarding. I would also like to ask that you make the camp available to teenagers that may be active in your chapter this year. access our website at www.riverscamp.com for more information as well as the application download.

The deadline is March 15th, and students may email the application and essay directly to me at MLflyfish@hotmail.com. Furthermore, if you have any questions you may contact me at 717.386.0549 or at the email address listed above. Thank you again for your support, and we look forward to another great camp!

Matt Lourdeau
Board of Directors, RC&FFYC

Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited
Chapter #670
P.O. Box 483
Uniontown, PA 15401

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

LAST CAST: FROM THE EDITOR

As my term as President comes to an end, I look back to a lot of hard work, some sleepless nights, and a few more gray hairs. But much more important are the life long friends I've made, the laughs and the sense of pride I have shared with my fellow members over the past 2 years. CRTU won the national Silver Trout award in 2006 and the Best Pennsylvania Chapter and Best PA Website in 2007. While awards are nice, and do help raise public awareness of the chapter, it is the work we do that is the most fulfilling.

I have full confidence in Scott Hoffman taking over as President of CRTU. As serving as Vice President, Scott has been highly involved in all of the chapters committees and his back ground as an engineer will lessen the learning curve I experienced as I began my term. Scott cannot do this alone however, the chapter needs to look at our long range goals to preserve and protect the Youghiogheny River watershed. The chapter needs new blood, and it is my hope that returning as the Membership Chairman, I can increase our membership participation.

I am planning on further improvements to our website, adding more features and information about our chapter. We encourage members to log on to our discussion board and stream blog at www.crtu.org.

My favorite social event of the year is our annual Beaver Creek outing. This years outing is booked for Friday, June 6, 2008. Beaver Creek is located on Dinner Bell Road in Farmington, PA. Beaver Creek Anglers own and operate about 3/4 mile of private stream stocked with brown, brook and rainbow trout. Their trout range in size from about 13 inches to trophy fish above 20 inches. Green Drakes have traditionally welcomed us in the evening after a full day of fishing and dining. Further details will become available in the near future.

See everyone at the banquet!

Take Care,
Allen Tedrow



CRTU wins Best PA TU Chapter 2007