



TALE OF THE POOL

SUMMER 2006

OFFICERS:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dave Gilpin
Lou Giovannelli
Henry Deabner
Dale Kotowski
Ben Moyer
Robert Musar
Tom Shetterly
Rick Young

COMMITTEES:

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

Upcoming Events:

- CRTU Family Picnic, Saturday, July 8, 2006 Yough Tailrace 11:00 AM
- CRTU Membership Meeting, August 9, 2006 Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA. 7:00 PM
- Dunbar Creek Stream Improvement, August 12, 2006 8:00 AM

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Friday, June 2nd, CRTU members enjoyed the day at our annual Beaver Creek outing held at the Beaver Creek Angling club. A big thank you goes to stream manager Daryl Basset for his hospitality. The rain held off, and some big boys were caught and released. We cooked on the grill and in the evening told lies by the campfire.

The next event for our social calendar is the annual CRTU family picnic on July 8th held at the USACE campground at the Yough tailrace in Confluence. Please bring your family and friends and a covered dish if you desire. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be cooking on the grill and refreshments will be provided. We are also tentatively planning a morning stocking of the Yough. Anyone interested meet at the nursery at 9:00 am. The picnic should get underway at 11:00 am and last until about 3:00 pm. Meet at the picnic shelter.

Due to vacation season kicking in there will be no membership meeting in July. There will however, be a Board of Director's meeting on July 19th. Time and place TBD. Membership meetings will resume in August, meeting the second Wednesday of the month.



Beaver Creek Tiger Trout

It is my sincere pleasure to announce that Tom Shetterly's nomination for Southwest Region District 2 PFBC commissioner has finally been approved. District 2 is comprised of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Tom should take the oath soon. Now CRTU has two members on the PFCB Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Donald Anderson is an at-large boating commissioner and is a member of CRTU.

Tom needs help to construct additional Deep Water Habitat structures for the Yough Lake. A six to eight man crew for a

couple days will be needed. Details will be forthcoming.

The progress of our current AMD projects, Jonathan and Morgan Run, have experienced some delays due to various reasons. This is very frustrating, but hopefully all parties involved can come to an agreement and bring these streams back from acid mine damage.

Some repairs are needed at the nursery, and thanks to member Rick Young having a friend who is a scuba diver, we can repair the hole in one of the nets. We lost around 1000 trout because of the (continued on page 4)

DUNBAR CREEK STREAM IMPROVEMENT 8/12/06

The annual stream improvement project for Dunbar Creek will take place on Saturday, August 12, 2006. The project this year is located upstream from the last parking lot. It will be supervised by Dave Keller from the Habitat Division of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Volunteer help would be greatly appreciated. This event had to be canceled last year because of low attendance, so if you are a regular visitor to Dunbar Creek please do your best to attend. We will meet at parking area up the dirt road from the Game Commission shed just off the hard top Dunbar-Ohiopyle road at 8 am. Dunbar Sportsman Club is the organizer of this project and is asking help from CRTU members. By the way, if you fish Dunbar Creek frequently, please consider joining Dunbar Sportsman Club. Dues are only \$5.00 a year and you'd be supporting a fine organization. The Dunbar Sportsman Club sponsor a youth fishing derby every year, help CRTU for the annual stream clean up and conduct a fine banquet every spring. For information call John Maddas at 724-277-4258.

CRTU: AHEAD OF THE CURVE...WRITTEN BY TOM SHETTERLY

I'm sure many have you have read the article in TU's spring 2006 issue of Trout magazine called "The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture" about seventeen states and dozens of partners coming together to restore the Eastern brook trout. TU first established the "Back the Brookie" program in 2004 which was their first attempt to consolidate local projects in various states on to a larger scale. EBTJV is a pilot program of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. NFHI is a nationwide strategy that harnesses the energies, expertise and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies and conservation organizations.

As you can see the new face and goals of natural resource management is habitat restoration, partnering with share holders, and targeting species before they become endangered or extinct. These are some of the steps modern conservationists must take in order to accomplish mutual natural resource management objectives. Partnerships must be developed, and a strategic plan established, not only for one particular stream, but for an entire watershed.

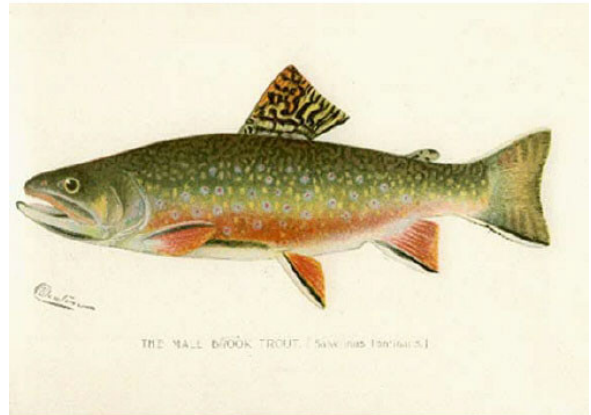
The Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited have been accomplishing these goals for the last ten years. In 1995 CRTU was formed to preserve, protect and restore the Youghiogheny watershed. In 1997 members of CRTU and other watershed groups developed the River Conservation Plan for the Middle Youghiogheny River Corridor. Preparation of the Plan was funded by a River Conservation Planning Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). One of the goals of the plan was to partner with other concerned parties in the area to develop a strategic plan to bring back the tributaries of the Youghiogheny River. Tributaries that for generations supported the natural reproduction of the brook trout. The formulation of the plan was directed by the CRTU Plan Steering Committee, taking into account the data, thoughts, and ideas offered by the local municipalities and governmental agencies and citizens residing in the Corridor. The overall response to this planning effort was excellent as all of the concerned and affected parties had a dedicated, sincere interest in protecting, promoting and improving the resources of the Corridor.

Over the past decade CRTU has partnered with federal, state and county natural resource agencies, organized labor, business communities, and sportsmen's clubs. Some of our partners at the federal level are the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Interior. The state agencies include the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Office of the Governor. The labor organizations we have partnered with are the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 354 and the Western PA District Council of Carpenters' Apprentice Program. The numerous private and business organizations include Allegheny Power, D&R Hydro, Skelly and Loy, Paul Rizo and Associates, Western PA Conservancy, Dunbar Sportsmen Club and California University of Pennsylvania.

Our first project was Glade Run, that flows into to Dunbar Creek, a tributary of the Yough. Due to our projects on Glade Run, we are looking forward to having our fifth year of natural reproducing brook trout in this stream that had been sterile due to acid mine drainage for more than fifty years! Since the chapters existence we have been involved in six acid mine remediation projects to bring back the brook trout to four streams by improving the habitat of these cold water streams.

Also part of the Yough River Conservation Plan was the idea for Deep Water Habitat Program for the Youghiogheny River Lake. First conceived in 1997, it is still an on going project. Even though we are currently involved in many projects we continue to plan for the future. This past year CRTU has applied for a stream restoration grant for Dunbar Creek.

These are just some of the projects of CRTU. The nursery at the Yough spillway is an excellent tool to monitor water quality, and the spawning redds have also shown signs of success. As you can see, our chapter is well ahead of the curve in natural resource management. It is our hope that the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture is successful in educating the public for the need to clean our streams. When I look at streams that our fathers used to fish, now only to see them poisoned by acid mine drainage, I can't help but feel cheated. We must do everything we can to bring back the brook trout in Pennsylvania. The brook trout is the best "watchdog" there is for a stream. If a stream is healthy, there will be brook trout present. Cleaner streams benefit not just fishermen, but everyone.



THE LEGEND OF BETTY KNOX...RENDITION REWRITTEN BY: BEN MOYER

Between Ohiopyle and Dunbar Pennsylvania in Fayette County is a belt of brooding rock-crested ridges tumbling streams, and abandoned hill farms known to local folks as the Dunbar Mountains. In earlier times the rugged land demanded rugged inhabitants, an independent lot who could carve out a life where more timid souls would scarcely visit. Since the 1700s they dragged a living in the form of timber from the hollow, dug narrow veins of coal from the dank, watery mines and hoed corn and buckwheat on hillsides so steep that, according to grinning old timers, seeds were planted by blasting them uphill from shotguns.

Naturally, such a place spawned its share of local folklore. Most of the stories that told of the struggles of various colorful individuals against the hardships of mountain life. Miles walked, tons loaded, acres cleared and game trapped or killed are common themes. Over the years, as in much of America, most of the stories have been lost. They have faded from local cultures as lifestyles modernized, cable TV replacing communal story telling as evening entertainment. Some of the stories survive now only in the dimming childhood memories of the oldest residents. One story will not die. That story is the legend of Betty Knox!

Betty Knox was born in 1842 on a rough mountain farm at Kentuck Knob overlooking the Great Gorge of the Youghiogheny in what is now known as Ohiopyle state Park. Deadly sickness came often and early among the mountain families. When Betty was three years old, her mother died. Leaving the little girl to be raised by her father. Betty grew into a strong and willing worker and her father depended on her to help with the heavy works as if she were a son. The work was hard and never ending, a daily and seasonal cycle that had to be completed. There was clearing, plowing, planting, hoeing and harvest. In the fall and winter wood was cut for building, fuel and cooking. Betty became skilled at handling livestock and daily drove their team of oxen in the fields and woods. When she was 17, her father was killed in a timber cutting accident. Betty buried him on Kentuck Knob and was all alone on her mountain. Being an uncommonly beautiful young woman with long auburn hair and sky blue eyes, she was pursued by all the young men who lived in the lonely hollows surrounding Kentuck. But Betty resisted all their advances, perhaps in hopes of someday meeting some special stranger from far away.

To make a living for herself, Betty began to haul grain on ox-back for other farmers around Kentuck and Ohiopyle. She led the ox northwest, over the mountains to Grist mill in Ferguson hollow, just outside of Dunbar. She began each journey at daybreak and soon established a well worn path still discernable to this day. By nightfall she had completed her 25 mile round trip and returned the grain as flour. Other evidence of Betty's life still exists. A level piece of bottom land where her route crossed the Dunbar creek is still known as Betty Knox Park. And nearby, still usable, is a spring she improved by deepening it and lining its sides with creek stones. Its crystal clear waters offered refreshment on each trip over the mountains.

One evening in 1862, during the second autumn of the Civil-War, she met along the trail a soldier who had deserted the Union Army in West Virginia (still Virginia and officially confederate territory at that time) The young man was badly wounded and racked by fever, Delirious he had wandered north to this lonely spot in the forest. Betty took the soldier to her cabin, hid him from the Army and nursed his wounds.

She became completely devoted to her soldier, to the point that she began to fear his recovery lest he leave her alone once more. His wounds and their complications proved fatal, and after more than a year of tireless nursing, the soldier died. Betty buried him on Kentuck Knob near her father. Not too long ago their were ole timers who knew the appropriate whereabouts of the graves.

After his death, Betty and the ox returned to their trips over the ridges, transporting many tons of grain and flour. Their travels became quite familiar to people of the settlement growing up around the mill, especially during the peak of the grain harvest, when Betty and the ox, loaded down with grain sacks, would emerge from the woods every day. Though she was a frequent customer at the mill, she never socialized. She kept to herself, speaking only enough to accomplish her errand before heading back into the forest. Still, the locals felt fondly toward the woman. They admired her independent way of life and respected her physical stamina.

Sometime during the year of 1878, Betty Knox trips came to a sudden halt. Grain piled up in the log barns and the folks around the mill quickly noticed the absence of the long haired woman and her ox. Some feared she was ill, resting at her cabin, but when a group of farmers failed to find her there, search parties were formed. Her neighbors combed the wooded hills between Dunbar and Ohiopyle, looking for Betty or some clue to her disappearance. They found neither. A few said that she had been killed by Wolves or a Panther, still plentiful at that time. Others maintained that she had simply grown weary of her lonely routine and left the area.

The mystery grew stranger still the following spring some children gathering wild ramps and morels made a ghastly discovery. Chained to a tree near the spring that Betty improved was the skeleton of an ox. The find was especially strange because the intense search of only a few months before had centered on that very place. No trace of the ox had been seen at that time, and stranger still, Betty had never been known to use a chain to lead the beast. To this day, no other clues have been found and the fate of Betty Knox has never been revealed.

The legend is an old one and like the rest of the mountain stories, it isn't told as frequently as it once was. Sometimes years go by without any direct mention of the stalwart young woman who hauled grain along through the country avoided by most men. But always it seems, when the legend grows so dim that it nearly vanishes as sure as the woman who inspired it, strange occurrences are reported. Visiting deer hunters, turkey hunters and fisherman from all over have told of a pale feminine form flickering through the trees before daylight. Young couples out for a late night drive have claimed to have heard the mournful lolling of oxen miles from the nearest farm. And strangest of all, on some dark nights when a damp breeze oozes; out of the heart of the mountains and stirs the boughs of ancient hemlocks standing along Dunbar Creek, the pained voice of a young man can just be made out whispering, " Betty Knox, Betty Knox" To find Betty Knox Park on a starry, quiet night, travel past Stefano Printing toward Ohiopyle. Turn right at the Game Commission Shed onto the dirt road bearing right for less than 1/8 mile. stop, listen carefully!

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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

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

hole, but fortunately because of our unique culture cage nursery, all the trout escaped into the Yough spillway.

On May 20, 2006, CRTU stocked trout for the Hopwood Fishing Derby. From the pictures I saw, I'd say the event was a big success.

The 8th Annual Statewide AMD and AMR Conference will be held August 24 to 26 at the Atherton Hotel in State College. This year's theme is "Back to Basics." The program will feature presentations on passive mine drainage treatment systems, evaluating water monitoring results, identification of funding sources for projects and much more! Watershed groups, public agencies, consultants, local and state officials will all be in attendance to network and share their craft. Check the Statewide AMD and AMR Conference website:

www.treatminewater.com in the coming weeks for more information.

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, which provides funding for the clean-up of abandoned coal mine sites, has been extended. The legislation will extend the existing program through September 30, 2007. It was scheduled to expire at the end of this month. CRTU was mentioned in the TU press release.

Many thanks to Tom Shetterly and Ben Moyer for their submissions for this newsletter. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy of the River Conservation Plan for the Middle Youghiogheny River Corridor mentioned in Tom's article please contact me. And if I ever hear a voice whisper "Betty Knox, Betty Knox" while fishing Dunbar Creek, that will be me running past you on the dirt road!

Look for the Fall 2006 issue of Tale of the Pool the first week of October. Visit our website at www.crtu.org for the latest news of the chapter.



Hopwood Fishing Derby

Take care,
Allen Tedrow
President CRTU