



Founded 1983, we are an award-winning chapter of Trout Unlimited:
1989 Gold Trout Award, Best TU Chapter in the World;
1990 Silver Trout Award, Best TU Chapter in the Northeast U.S.,
Best Chapter in Pennsylvania and Best National Membership Increase;
1992 and 2005 Sam Slaymaker Award, "The Gusher" newsletter
recognized as the Best Chapter Newsletter in Pennsylvania



THE OIL CREEK GUSHER

The newsletter of the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, #424

Winter Issue 2006

CHAPTER BANQUET IS APRIL 8 -- GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

It's that time of year again, when the OCTU banquet committee is going full throttle and you need to do your part -- that is, send the coupon on the back page of this issue (or same information) to OCTU to order your tickets for this year's fund-raising banquet. As always, we promise the evening will be a FUN-raiser, too!

Help your chapter continue its good work for coldwater conservation and local trout fishing. The banquet will be at the Franklin Club, Saturday, April 8. The social time starts at 5:30 p.m. and the "famous" dinner buffet is at 7 p.m. Raffles, auctions and fund-raising games follow.

A special note: If the chapter receives your ticket order by Saturday, March 18, you will be entered in the Early Bird drawing for valuable prizes.

And a special opportunity: Again this year, if you or your business purchases a table of 8 banquet tickets, you get \$100 worth of banquet raffle tickets FREE.

Send in the order coupon on the back page today!



Photo by Bob Steiner

MORE STREAM IMPROVEMENT PLANNED FOR THE EAST BRANCH

Coming soon to a section of the East Branch of Sugar Creek (some of which can be seen above) -- more stream improvement! The chapter applied in mid-December to national Trout Unlimited for a \$7,500 Embrace-A-Stream grant to help fund a series of stream habitat improvement and bank stabilization structures along the stocked trout stream in Oakland Township, near Dempseytown.

(continued on page 2)

OCTU MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 15: Chapter meeting. Program: Seneca Rocks Audubon Chapter on local birds and the new Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project (see p. 3).

Mid-February: Chapter fly-tying classes start (exact date to be determined, see p. 3).

February 20: Deadline for OCTU to receive Rivers Camp scholarship applications (see p. 5)

February 24-25: Keystone Coldwater Conference (see p. 3); 814-359-5233.

February 25: OCTU Open House at the Venango Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs' Sportsmen's Night Out / Landowner Appreciation Dinner, Rocky Grove Fire Hall, 814-437-3764 (see p. 5).

March 10-12: Pa. Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Convention, State College; 717-232-3480.

March 15: Chapter meeting. Deb Nardone of the Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited and the Coldwater Heritage Partnership on wild trout in Pennsylvania, their importance and habitat challenges (see p. 3).

March 18: Deadline to purchase OCTU banquet tickets to qualify for the Early Bird drawing.

April 8: Chapter Banquet, Franklin Club. Clip and mail the coupon on the back page for your tickets.

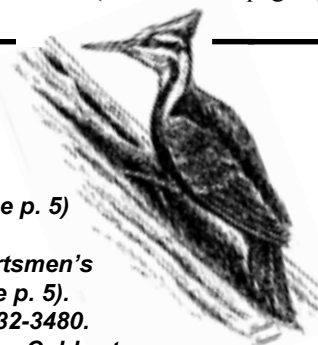
April 15: Opening Day of Pennsylvania Trout Season.

April 19: Chapter meeting. Program t.b.a. in next Gusher (send your e-mail address for updates between issues)

April 22-23: Spring membership meeting of the Pa. Council TU, Lancaster; 814-359-5233.

April 29: Caddis Hatch Breakfast at the Steiners' "Sugar Creek Log Lodge," for OCTU members & friends

May 17: Chapter meeting. Program t.b.a. in next Gusher. Last meeting before summer break.





**Oil Creek Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
Chapter # 424**

**P.O. Box 366
Franklin, PA16323
Chapter e-mail:
canon1@
usachoice.net**

**President: Linda Steiner, 814-374-4759
linstein@galacticis.com**

Vice President: Don Wilson, 814-374-4194 (no e-mail)

**Secretary: Vaughn MacGregor, 724-376-2456
mac4067@certainty.net**

Treasurer: Linda Wilson, 814-374-4194 (no e-mail)

**Directors: Bill Huber, 814-677-8802 (no e-mail)
Greg Pochron, 814-676-9483, fishcop162@yahoo.com
Bob Steiner, 814-374-4759, linstein@galacticis.com
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Pete Straub, 814-676-2315, straubpv@aol.com
Tom Young, 814-437-5550, tandeyoung@csonline.net**

Current Chapter Projects / Project Leaders:

**Banquet – Scott and Kim Wilson
Dirt & Gravel Roads – Tom Young
Education – Ron DeWoody, 814-437-2028
Ed Atts, 814-425-3622
Financial Audit/Budget – Linda Wilson
Library Subscriptions – Scott Wilson
Litter Pickup – Tom & Elaine Young
Membership Development -- John Wood,
814-425-3672
Newsletter – Linda Steiner, Scott Wilson
Open House – Regis Senko, 814-677-5080
PFSC Delegate – Vaughn MacGregor,
Bob Steiner (alternate)
Polk Center Earth Day -- Vaughn MacGregor
P.R./Media – Linda Steiner, Scott Wilson
So. Sandy Creek Restoration – Lance Bowes
Trout in the Classroom -- Lance Bowes, at
Venango Conservation Dist., 676-2832
Trout Stocking – Bill Huber, Tom Young
Youth Field Day – Regis Senko**

East Sugar Creek Bank Stabilization, from page 1:

The Oil Creek Chapter is planning to partner with the Venango Conservation District, Oakland Township, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to improve fish habitat and stabilize an eroding stream bank on the East Branch of Sugar Creek. This section of the trout stream is on Pennsylvania Game Commission land.

The reach of stream is endangering the condition of the township road. A draft plan to improve the fish habitat and stabilize the eroding stream bank, which will also help to minimize maintenance on the roadway, was prepared by David Keller and the staff of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Habitat Management Section.

The proposed plan includes the construction of deflectors that will help to move the main channel toward the middle of the stream and reduce velocities on the banks. The deflectors will also provide cover for trout and other aquatic life in the East Branch of Sugar Creek. The deflectors should discourage further stream widening and bank erosion, while encouraging the stream banks to grow and stabilize themselves with natural vegetation. All of the structures will be constructed of green logs and local sandstone. This will help them blend in for a natural look.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will do a final assessment. The design will be completed in the spring of 2006, when water levels are at a lower flow.

The Oil Creek Chapter did a smaller bank stabilization project upstream of this site, for which local equipment and materials were available. We expect to use the same resources and suppliers for the new work. Due to the success of that smaller project, in shoring up and revegetating the bank and producing trout habitat and better stream flow conditions, the Oil Creek Chapter wants to continue work on the stream.

Total cost of the project is expected to be \$19,550. Some would come from the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, volunteer labor and material/equipment donations, and (hopefully) from Trout Unlimited's Embrace-A-Stream program.

If OCTU is awarded the grant, the \$7,500 would fund material purchases and equipment rental (excavator work). The chapter felt that TU's Embrace-A-Stream grant program would be particularly appropriate as the project addresses Trout Unlimited's core mission.



MUST-BE-PRESENT-TO-WIN DRAWING

We pulled your "lucky" number / You weren't there.

Names drawn at recent chapter meetings: November, **Erik Shellgren**; December, **Andy Setlock**; January, **Sharon Radaker**. None were present, so the Burris binoculars are yet to be won. We have great programs coming up, a lot of chapter projects/activities, plus the "must-be-present-to-win" prize sweetens the reasons why you'll want to be there. Check pages 1 or 8 for meeting dates/programs.

Chapter Election Results: At the November annual meeting, OCTU held its election of officers. The results are reflected at upper left.

Greg Pochron rejoined the board; Don Wilson was voted in as the new vice president; and Scott Wilson has taken a board seat.

OCTU would like to thank Jen Lyons for her board service. Thanks also to the Nominating Committee: Regis Senko, Ed Atts and Tom Young.

Trout in the Classroom:

The saga of Trout in the Classroom is one of successes, disappointments and successes.

On November 8, a field trip was held to the classrooms participating in the project, led by Lance Bowes of the Venango Conservation District. Attending were Linda Steiner, Scott Wilson and Joe Lehosky of the chapter, and Ken Undercoffer, President of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited.

Ken was there to view working Trout in the Classroom projects. Other schools and TU chapters throughout the state are becoming interested in the educational project and are considering becoming involved.

The group visited Pete Lindey's classroom at the Venango Technology Center; Mike Crocker's classroom at Oil City High School; and Eric Mowrey's classroom at Titusville Middle School. At that time, all had experienced a loss of fish, from overfeeding and resulting fungus growth and from a power outage caused by a severe storm.

The teachers said they like the equipment and the program and the way the curriculum fits with their science course. They said the students showed a lot of interest in the project. They also said they will definitely do it again next year, no matter how many fish (if any) they raise to stockable fingerling size this year.

Because so many of the original rainbow trout had been lost, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission was contacted for replacement. The commission had brown trout eggs available at the Bellefonte hatchery. Bob Steiner stopped on his way back from bear hunting in eastern Pennsylvania before Thanksgiving and delivered them to Pete Lindey and Lance Bowes, so the schools that wanted to could start again with the program, while there was still time.

The most recent news is that Eric Mowrey (Titusville) says his fish made it through the holidays OK and he began feeding them. Mike Crocker (Oil City) has 15 of the original rainbow trout left, but hasn't lost one in six weeks. He did not get any eggs from the second batch; all of his are from the original eggs. That's the good news. The bad: Pete Lindey (Venango Technology Center) says that all of his trout "have gone to the great raceway in the sky."

We'll continue to follow the saga and this learning experience. Thanks again to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for resupplying two of the classrooms.

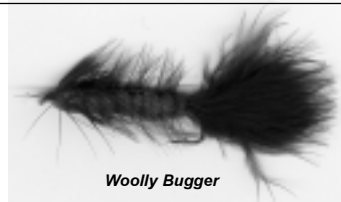
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When: February 24 - 25, 2006
Theme: Our Watersheds at Risk:
Protecting Water Quality,
Quantity, and Stream Access
Where: Penn Stater Conference
Center, State College, Pa.
Fee: \$30 (incl. reception & lunch)
Info: Web [www.outreach.psu.edu/
C&I/coldwaterconservation](http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/coldwaterconservation) or
phone 814-359-5233.

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Chapter schedules fly-tying classes



Woolly Bugger

"Are ya ready for some fly tyin'?" By the time the chapter's fly-tying classes start, the Super Bowl will be over (the Steelers will have won, of course) and we'll all be thinking about spring trout fishing.

Greg Pochron and Scott Wilson have been planning a 6-week series of fly-tying lessons, open to the public and to chapter members alike.

The classes will start in mid-February and run through the end of March. They are planning one session a week, day/time to be determined. Cost will be \$35, which will cover materials and a 1-year Trout Unlimited membership for nonmembers.

Learn a new craft or brush up on your tying. Class size is expected to be limited to about a dozen. Chapter member tyers will be needed to help instruct.

If you'd like to take the class, can help teach, or just want more info, call Scott Wilson (days) 814-677-4476 or e-mail him at canon1@usachoice.net.

OCTU Meeting Programs, Past & Future:

What great programs we've had this year so far at the chapter meetings! If you haven't attended and been part of the "OCTUers' Night Out," which every meeting evening has become, you've really cheated yourself.

In **November**, Joe Lehosky's presentation on fishing Alaska for salmon and halibut "wow'ed" us.

We hope you didn't miss the **December** Christmas party. Thanks to all who attended and especially to Scott Wilson, who organized the event. Attendees bought their own meals and the chapter provided hors d'oeuvres, a special cake and door prizes. The gift exchange was fun. A brief business meeting was held.

January's program was by Wally and Leeda Crum, who own Liberty Street Antiques, Crafts and Collectibles. What treasures do you have in your attic, fishing related or otherwise? The Crums' presentation challenged us to identify and appreciate old-time items. Thanks to Tom and Elaine Young for suggesting them; we all had a great time.

At **February's** meeting, we'll have a couple of folks from the local Seneca Rocks Chapter of the Audubon Society. Ron Montgomery and Gary Edwards will be there to talk about the new Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas and have a presentation on what birds can be found in our area. Just in time to sharpen your "birding" skills before spring. Thanks to Dennis Beaver for suggesting OCTU as a venue for these speakers.

For **March**, don't miss Deb Nardone, Coldwater Resource Specialist with the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. Deb also oversees the Coldwater Heritage Partnership. She will have a program for us on wild trout across Pennsylvania, their importance and the environmental requirements to have healthy populations of the fish. A very special presentation!



The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) sent word to the chapter that our request to officially “adopt” the East Branch of Sugar Creek was approved. OCTU received a letter in December from Dave Keller, Area Habitat Manager for the Fish Pas-

sage Habitat Management Division of the PFBC. He says our application for a Cooperative Adopt-A-Stream Project was reviewed and has been placed on the Approved List. The next step, says Keller, is “to get your project active as soon as possible.” Read about the project, starting on p. 1.

* * *

Preseason Trout Stocking:

The Catch & Release Fly Fishing Only stretch of Little Sandy Creek will be stocked on Wednesday, March 1. To assist the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Venango County Waterways Conservation Officer Mark Kerr get the trout into the stream, meet at the PFBC parking lot along Route 62 at Polk, at 10:15 a.m.

Both Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only areas on Oil Creek (Drake Well and Petroleum Center) will be stocked March 15. To help, meet at 10 a.m. at the Rynd Farm train station, just north of Rouseville, off Route 8.

Other Venango County preseason trout stockings:

Sugar Creek: March 3, meet 9:15 a.m. at the Cooperstown post office on Route 427; March 9 (upper section), meet 9:15 a.m. at Little Cooley.

Mill Creek and Pine Run: March 8, meet 10:15 a.m. at the Cranberry Mall parking lot.

East Branch Sugar Creek and Prather Creek: March 14, meet 10:30 a.m. at the Cooperstown post office.

Little Scrubgrass Creek: March 20, meet 11 a.m. at Exit 42 (old Exit 5) on I-80.

Sandy Creek (Lake Wilhelm to Polk): March 21, meet 10:30 a.m. at Polk Center.

Hemlock Creek and Horse Creek: March 23, meet 10 a.m. at the President Campground, along Route 62.

Upper and Lower Two Mile Runs: March 29, meet 10:15 a.m. at the Venango County Coon & Fox Club.

Little Sugar Creek: March 30, meet 10 a.m. at the junction of Route 417 and Route 428 (Dempseytown).

Justus Lake and Sandy Creek (new section, downstream of Polk): April 6, meet 10:15 a.m. at the Two Mile Run County Park office (at the beach).

East Sandy Creek: April 7, meet 10 a.m. at Van, along Route 322.

Oil Creek (area between special reg. sections): April 10, meet 10 a.m. at the Rynd Farm train station, north of Rouseville, off Route 8.

Pithole Creek and West Pithole Creek: April 11, meet 9:30 a.m. at the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Dept. parking lot, along Route 27.

The chapter may be helping by bucket carrying or float stocking. Contact Bill Huber, Tom Young or Bob Steiner or just show up.

Chapter trout stocking: OCTU traditionally supplements the state’s trout stocking at the special regulation fishing areas in the county. Money budgeted after the last banquet (\$1,500) will be used to add “premium-size” trout to these stream sections. Chapter Trout Stocking Project leaders Tom Young and Bill Huber will look into the availability of fish and set a stocking date. A chapter promotional announcement will be made in local media about the stocking, and we’ll let you know via the GUSHER, too.



Youth Education: The chapter will continue to fund its share (1/3) of a scholarship at Clarion University this year and has renewed the TU subscriptions to local public and school libraries. We also budgeted to send a youngster to the 2006 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp (see PATU report, page 5). OCTU will once again make a \$300 donation (budgeted) to the Venango County Youth Field Day, to be held June 17, at the Oil City Izaak Walton League clubgrounds.



South Sandy Creek Restoration:

The chapter continues to follow efforts to clean up the acid mine drainage in the South Sandy watershed, efforts which we originally helped to spearhead.

Lance Bowes of the Venango Conservation District reports that the South Sandy Watershed Association has applied for a Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant to do assessment and planning of acid mine drainage remediation at Williams Run. This will complement the earlier preliminary assessment done for the Oil Creek Chapter by Mackin Engineering. The conservation district was provided with a copy of that assessment and OCTU hopes it will be helpful to the pollution abatement effort there.

If you are not familiar with South Sandy Creek, take a walk along it on State Game Lands 39, south of Franklin. Wild trout inhabit some of the clean, cold tributaries, while other tributaries, like Williams Run, contribute acid mine drainage that depresses the aquatic life and fishery in South Sandy. We’re sure you’ll agree that South Sandy Creek would be a great trout stream, if cleaned up. The effort has proven long-term, costly and difficult.



Web site: The chapter’s web site is being constructed; click on www.oilcreektu.org and watch! Chapter representatives met recently with web site developer Josh Peters, of Pine City Outdoors. Josh was selected to build and host the site, based on both price and ability. If you have suggestions on what would be useful to you to have on the site, please let Scott Wilson or Linda Steiner know and they’ll forward the suggestions to Josh. He expects to have the site fully operational in early February.

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PATU NW Vice President: Scott Wilson
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The chapter is offering a scholarship for a young person to attend PATU's 2006 Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp this summer. Deadline for applications to be received by the chapter is February 20. A unique opportunity for youth!

The 12th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp will be held June 18-23, at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, PA. The purpose of the camp is to educate students in the importance of coldwater conservation. The "plus" is they get to learn about and enjoy fly fishing, too.

In the past, the chapter has sent students, including Sarah and Jenny Senko. The camp facility can only take 32 students and selection at the state level is considered to be "rigorous." Students must be age 14 - 17. They are required to submit an essay on why they wish to attend.

The college-level classes include principles of ecology, hydrogeology, aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate sampling, hydrology, trout behavior, trout stream entomology, the biology of pollution, acid deposition, the politics of conservation and the effects of humans on the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, the camp provides hands-on classes such as fly tying, fly casting, streamside ethics, angling literature, the evolution of an angler, wader safety and survival, and streamside botany. The students will also participate in a watershed project to repair habitat in a stream. The camp faculty includes people from various environmental fields and from state agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

To qualify for attendance, students must have been born between June 23, 1988 and June 18, 1992. PATU's camp selection committee will choose students based upon each candidate's qualifications and their desire to attend as stated in the required essay. For the first time this year, campers who are working toward achieving either a fishing merit badge or a fly fishing merit badge with the Boy Scouts may complete the requirements for those badges at the camp.

For more information or to obtain an application, visit www.riverscamp.com (print out from web site). Or contact PATU's Mike Klimkos (717-243-3056 or klimkos@epix.net) or Rod Cross (717-263-0365).

The cost of the camp is \$275 and includes meals, lodging and all activities. The Oil Creek Chapter will supply \$250 as its scholarship; the successful applicant will pay \$25 and will be responsible for his or her transportation to and from the camp. To be considered for the chapter's scholarship, send a completed application/essay to OCTU, P.O. Box 366, Franklin, PA 16323 so that it is received no later than February 20, 2006. Applicants will be notified concerning selection.



**Contact: VAUGHN MacGREGOR
Chapter and County Delegate**

clubs and conservation agencies in the county, in setting up displays for attendees during the afternoon of February 25.

The chapter's involvement will include not only our attractive display boards, but also the traditional hands-on activities we usually have at our annual open house. That is, fly-tying and fly-rod casting instruction for attendees. Yes, the building is large enough and ceiling is high enough we should be able to cast indoors! We'll have knot tying and other demonstrations as interest and time permit.

The chapter could use assistance at the event. You would need to arrive about 2 p.m. for setup. The doors open to the public at 2:30 p.m. The dinner will start at 6 p.m. and door prizes will be awarded.

The Oil Creek Chapter's open house this year will be rolled into the the Venango County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs' "Sportsmen's Night Out and Landowner Appreciation Banquet," Saturday, February 25, at the Rocky Grove Fire Hall.

The chapter will join other members of the Venango County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, as well as other sportsmen's

The featured speaker for the evening will be the "Pennsylvania Elk Lady," Carol Mulvihill, of Bradford. Carol, with her signature "cowgirl" hat, is a regular in the state's elk country. A knowledgeable elk aficionado, Carol has taken many fine photos and published the book, "Elk Watching in Pennsylvania." She does a must-see program!

Tickets for the full event (afternoon through evening) cost \$12 (dinner choice, chicken or beef). All are welcome.

If you have one or more local landowners who allow public outdoor recreation (especially trout fishing) on their property and you'd like to say "thank-you" by inviting them to the banquet, OCTU will buy the tickets.

However, the chapter asks that you get a commitment from the landowners to attend, so the dinners the chapter buys will be used. The chapter OK'd purchasing up to 30 tickets to give to landowners.

Order tickets from Bill Brandon, 814-437-3764; from Bob Steiner, 814-374-4759; or from Vaughn MacGregor, 724-376-2456.



Get a shirt, pull-over, jacket, fishing vest, hat or other garment embroidered with the OCTU logo at these local vendors ...

Sportsworld

1276 Liberty St.
Franklin, PA
814-437-7623

Stitch 'n To Go

2525 Patchel Run Rd.
Franklin, PA
814-374-5092

Lewis Custom

Embroidery
E. State Rd., Seneca, PA
814-676-1333

Whether you choose multi-color embroidery or classic black, you can now get the chapter's unique logo sewn on a favorite clothing item or purchase a garment from the vendor (wide variety of styles are available). You can opt for the logo embroidered small size over a breast pocket on a shirt or jacket, or have it embroidered larger (and shout you're a member) on front or back. It's your choice! Contact the vendor for pricing.

CATCH & RELEASE

I question, my friend,
the message you send,
About the rights and the wrongs.

For killing the fish,
To serve in a dish,
Is certainly right by the throngs.

I understand your zeal,
For you like the thrill,
Of a fish on your line all day.

But is it all right
That just for the fight,
You hold the trout at bay?

It sure sounds akin
To some type of sin,
To interfere with its life at all.

If only for fun,
You make him run,
And cause him to leap and to fall.

It just seems more right,
At the end of the fight,
You place him gently in your creel.

You fill just one pan,
Enough for each man,
And thus you limit your kill.

I just can't find peace,
With catch and release,
When a hunger is gnawing inside.

If I were all fat,
Like the proverbial cat,
Then your theory I could abide.

My palate does care
For piscatorial fare,
It seems to make no sense,

To turn loose a trout,
After pulling it out,
Simply for ideological pretense.

If I put him back,
Sufficient size he will lack,
Or perhaps my larder is full.

Because I prefer fish,
To most every dish,
Especially a bowl of gruel.

You turn your hook out,
He'll swim about,
And provide you more sport again.

I'll say "What the heck,"
Then crack his neck,
And fillet him with a grin.

For trout are fine fare,
When with proper care,
You consume their delicate flesh.

And it certainly seems right,
That after the fight,
You let them swim from the mesh.

Who's right or wrong?
How to end the song?
Why not a tolerant decision?

For one small meal
Is not a threat real,
I do not deserve your derision.

So you put them back,
And their necks I'll crack,
Yet we can both fight for their existence.

We can lock arms,
Repel all that harms,
And forever assure their persistence.

-- The Phantom Phish Poet



New member Joe Lukashunas with a January steelhead from Elk Creek, Erie County.

“The Way of a Trout” and more VCRs

The chapter received a VCR copy of the classic film “The Way of a Trout” from national TU. This was the result of conversations about “wouldn’t it be nice if there was a film about how wild trout grow,” and the reply from those who remembered back about 20 years ago, “yes, there is such a movie.” The film is about rainbow trout and includes spawning, egg laying, hatching and growing, predators and other challenges. We have the video to show some time at a meeting or for other uses. If you’d like to borrow it for home viewing, let us know. Thanks to John Gale, of TU Membership Services, for sending the film “comp.”

Other VCRs in the chapter’s library are “Learning to Fly Fish for Trout,” “Legends of the AuSable,” “Survival of the Wild Trout and Salmon” and a special TU edition film on fishing for Alaska rainbows, the Henry’s Fork and Venezuela peacock bass. All are available for loan; contact Linda Steiner, 814-374-4759.

TROUT TEASER

by Scott Wilson. Answer below.

A “Fishy” Cryptoquote

GRY AZLJG FXN ZO
OQJRQBC QJ TYGGYL
GRXB GRY TYJG
FXN ZO AZLM.



NOT A TU MEMBER?

Now is the perfect time to join!

HERE'S WHY & HOW:



- #1: Special half-price deal for the first year (\$17.50 for an Individual membership; and the chapter gets a rebate!).
- #2: Members receive three great publications (Oil Creek Chapter Gusher newsletter; Pennsylvania Trout, state council newsletter; and Trout, the national magazine).
- #3: You'll be part of the premier coldwater conservation group in the nation, protecting trout and their habitat.
- #4: Send your name/address/phone/e-mail and a check or money order to the Oil Creek Chapter, P.O. Box 366, Franklin, PA 16323. Questions? Call 814-374-4759.

SHORT CASTS: MISCELLANY

OCTU received the five Ned Smith art prints it ordered. Thanks to Joe Brancato, Sr.; Regis Senko; Scott and Kim Wilson; and Linda and Bob Steiner for purchasing them. Besides enjoying these beautiful framed prints, they helped OCTU raise some extra funds. By the way, if you didn’t order one, you can still win one (or bid on one, we’re not sure how it’ll be used) at the chapter’s April 8 banquet.

* * *

Winner of the “New in 2005” new member drawing held at the chapter Christmas party -- Ron Graham. Congratulations, Ron! We know you’ll enjoy the pair of quality Queen Cutlery knives, made in Titusville.

* * *

You don’t have to wait until the spring Fish and Boat Commission stocking to go fishing in the special reg. areas in Venango County. During some recent unseasonably warm weather, several chapter members went fly fishing at Oil Creek’s Delayed Harvest areas and did very well.

This has been the best winter in a long time to fish the local special reg. stretches. Oil Creek has had little ice all winter and none of the thick slabs and anchor ice that are so damaging to stocked fish. So the trout being caught now are those that were stocked last fall, and possibly last spring. Dress warm, gear up, and go fish!

Historic agreement should improve Pennsylvania coal-country streams

Late last year, Trout Unlimited signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Through this partnership, TU and the Office of Surface Mining will work together to protect and restore watersheds that historically supported trout populations and which now are adversely impacted by acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines. The agreement should have a direct and positive impact on Pennsylvania waterways.

Trout Unlimited and the Office of Surface Mining agreed to jointly support the National Fish Habitat Initiative and work with partners to focus attention and resources to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat and reverse declines in fish and other aquatic species. The new partnership should lead to increased restoration of abandoned mine lands across Appalachia and elsewhere in the United States. Venango County should benefit from this initiative.

“Fishy” Cryptoquote Solution:
The worst day of fishing is better than
the best day of work.

OUR CHAPTER MEETINGS
are held on the third (3rd)
Wednesday of the month,
September through May.

Regular Meeting Schedule:
Concurrent Board &
Membership: 6:30 p.m.
Meet for dinner with the
group, 5:30 p.m. (optional)

Programs – 7:30 pm
(public is welcome)
Feb. 15: Seneca Rocks
Audubon Chapter on local
birds and Pennsylvania
Breeding Bird Atlas project
Mar. 15: Deb Nardone of
PATU and the Coldwater
Heritage Partnership on
Pennsylvania's wild trout
and more ... a must-attend
special program!
April 19 & May 17: TBA

Our Meeting Place:
King's Family Restaurant
(in the Community Room),
on Route 8/62, between
Franklin and Oil City.

For more meeting info:
Contact Chapter President

Please accept my reservation for the April 8, 2006 banquet
of the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of adults _____ @ \$30/ea. = \$ _____

Number of children _____ @ \$15/ea. = \$ _____

Total enclosed (check or M.O. payable to OCTU) = \$ _____

or Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. _____

Mail to: OCTU, P.O. Box 366, Franklin, PA 16323

Orders received before 3/18/06 qualify for the Early Bird Drawing!



P.O. Box 366
Franklin, PA 16323

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