

The Flyline – Fall 2007

From Randy's Desk

Autumn is a lovely time in Pennsylvania. The summer's heat is gone and crisp, early-fall nights give way to warm afternoons. Riots of reds, yellows, and oranges dot the hillsides. Apples are at their best. Acorns are underfoot and the smell of autumn fills the air. Later the first biting cold of approaching winter will nip at our ears. A sweater or sweatshirt will feel good as will the warmth of a crackling fire. Geese will fly north in their V- formations, squirrels will be gathering nuts to store for the coming winter, and the bucks will have shed their velvet. The brown trout and the brookies will be on the redds. Soon winter's white blanket will cover the land to rest until spring.

In the world of Mountain Laurel Chapter, autumn is also a time of change. Chapter nominations will take place in September, October, and November. Elections for officers and board members will be held in November. The banquet committee will meet starting in October. The 2008 banquet will take place on April 5, 2008, and a lot of planning must be done. Fly tying courses must be planned as well as budgets for next year's activities. The fall membership meeting of Pa. Trout at the Stackhouse on Spring Creek will provide many important decisions as to the direction that TU in Pennsylvania will take.

Join with me and many others in preparing to make 2008 one of the best years yet for MLTU. I need your help!

Catch One,

Randy

Natural Thoughts

Our climate is changing and so is our environment. Woolly Alegeids are killing all of the hemlocks in Pennsylvania. This is our state tree, and it will be wiped out by some foreign visitor. Now we have the plague of the Emerald Beetle which may soon kill all of the ash trees. What is next? The Dutch Elm Disease killed most of our American elms.

The chestnuts were wiped out by blight. Where does it end? What foreign killer will wipe us out? So what can we do?

Gypsy Moths threaten the existence of the mighty oaks. Consider the acorn. Next time you are in the woods, pick up a handful of these and take them home and plant them in pots. As they germinate and grow larger, transfer them to larger

pots. Eventually, you can plant them in your yard or out in the woods. Join together to help find a solution to the use of carbon fuels. Nothing will happen if we don't insist that the government do something about this problem. We have the power. Vote, and vote wisely. I recently read an article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that stated that Pennsylvania could eventually have a climate like Alabama due to global warming. What will that do to your children's trout fishing? You are the solution! Get off of the couch, get together with others, and take control of the situation. We can change our destiny!

Youth Field Day - '07

Our Future is at Stake!

Who taught you about the outdoors? Your dad, grandfather, uncle? Whoever it was must have done a great job! Why? Because you are still fishing and/or hunting.

You remain committed to improving our environment - woods and water.

On Saturday, August 4th, many adult volunteers donated a day to instruct 95 boys and girls in wood and watercraft. Mountain Laurel chapter pitched in monetarily and physically. Tom Murray, Tony Mirilovich, and Fred Jacobs helped kids to fish, repaired lines, and replaced hooks. MLTU was assisted by Dennis Mochan of the Ken Sink Chapter of TU along with several young men who were once students. Thanks also goes to some parents who provided good examples to their children.

The temperature was hot, and the pond at Goldenrod Sportsmen's club was cloudy, but many kids caught numerous blue gills and at least one nice crappie.

At other venues the youngsters learned archery, how to call in a turkey, how to stay in a canoe, and the basics of shooting 22's, shotguns, and muzzleloaders.

As usual MLTU member Dave Albaugh, his mother, and others provided all the kids, volunteers, and parents with a filling - OK, over-filling - lunch.

Rumor suggests that Youth Field Day may not be held next year. This would be a major injustice to the area's youth. Many don't have mentors to instruct them in the ways of the wild. Please contact Andy Gelles, Tom Hindman, or other members of the Turkey Federation if you can help continue this program. Become a contributor to our future anglers and hunters.

MLTU News and Notes

MLTU has been busily working away on the Doug Meagher property on Ben's Creek once again this summer. Under the leadership of Butch Kerchensky, we

have installed several log deflectors and covered them with rock. Ron Sell, Rick Buchanan, Don Buchanan, Randy Buchanan, Mark Lee, Bill Conlin, Matt Borkowski, Gary Cooper, and others assisted with the work.

The Yellow Creek Coalition has been busy planning for fund raising and gaining easements along the fly project. At a recent meeting we reviewed the parking lot dedication in June, discussed possible difficulties with a local landowner over access to the parking lot (for now everything remains open), and we discussed possibly building a new shorter road to the new existing road into the parking lot. Landowner Charley Whitman has built another road on his property into the parking lot in case of future access problems. He would like to build a shorter access road over Maple Run so that road maintenance would not be so difficult. We will consider that. In addition we developed plans for fund raising next spring, since we now have our 501-C-3. We will work on easements as soon as possible.

The chapter has been involved in the fight to prevent Gamesa from installing windmills on Shaffer Mountain. At a recent hearing, Dave Sewak spoke on behalf of the chapter. We feel some of this area should be preserved. Unfortunately, the DEP may not agree. For further information on the MLTU position on the proposed installations on Shaffer Mountain, please see our position paper on the "What's New" page of the web site.

The chapter sponsored and participated in the second Quemahoning Classic. A good time was had by all.

Chapter President Randy Buchanan attended the summer meeting of Pennsylvania Trout to represent our chapter's views.

Gary Cooper and Randy Buchanan attended the regional meeting of Southwest TU at the New Frontier Restaurant in June. We also attended an access meeting on the same day at that venue.

Don't forget to sell your Twelve Days of Christmas Tickets when you receive them in the mail soon. These tickets support our ability to buy prizes for the spring banquet.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Regular Monthly Meetings - held at Gander Mountain Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Board of Directors Meetings - held at Gander Mountain Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Banquet Committee Meetings - held at Santo's Pizza or the Buchanan's (TBA)

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

December - No Meeting

Chapter Nominations for Officers and Board Members

Chapter nominations open in September for all four officers and selected board positions. They will remain open in October and November and will be the first item under old business. Nominations will close in November.

Chapter Elections

The chapter election will be held as the first item of new business at the November membership meeting. New electees will take office at the January Board Meeting.

Chapter Banquet

The chapter spring, fund-raising banquet will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Johnstown.

This year's banquet will take place on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Holiday Inn downtown. Details will follow as they become available.