

WHO IS THE YELLOW CREEK COALITION

The Yellow Creek Coalition is a conservation group formed ten years ago to coordinate the efforts of the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Blair County Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Fort Bedford Chapter of Trout Unlimited along with other conservation groups and individuals in cooperation with landowners in the Yellow Creek Watershed.

A PUBLIC TESTIMONIAL

Dear Mr. Cooper,

I just received the July/August issue of THE FLYLINE. After reading the article "From Randy's Desk", I am sick in my stomach about the current situation on Yellow Creek I was born and raised here in J-Town and my family owns a cottage on the Juniata River near Everett.

About six years ago my brother Matt and I put down our spinning rods and took our newly purchased fly rods to the Project on Yellow Creek. After about thirty minutes of ugly casting that spooked every fish in the hole, a gray haired man appeared and kindly helped us with our casting. He explained the importance of a "drag free" drift, how to fish a nymph, among other things He gave us each a couple of flies, and before you know it, we were catching trout Afterwards, I learned that this man's name was Fred Sherlock and we were fishing in front of his house. I have been a hopelessly addicted fly fisherman ever since.

Last year, I met Randy Buchanan above "Slate Bank" on the Project. I had a first time fly fisherman with me that day. Randy kindly gave him and me a couple of flies. Prior to meeting Randy the only thing my friend caught was a chill from falling in the stream Long story short, a half hour later that first timer started to catch trout on Randy's midge pattern above "Red Bank". What a memorable day for us. This past May, I visited the project on the Saturday that MLTU stocked it. I met an older gentleman (MLTU member) who's name I cannot remember. He was a school teacher at my Alma Mater (Westmont Hilltop). Anyways, his kindness and generosity towards me was unbelievable. He must have given me five or six flies and was an absolute delight to speak with. The point to all of this is... .not only is your organization's cause a noble one, you have some of this town's finest as members. My brother Matt worked at Santo's while he finished college and became friends with Joe A. before his passing. Although I did not know him very well, it's clear that he was a great man.

Please thank those gentlemen for me and accept this check to help with the situation on Yellow Creek or wherever you guys have a need. Like most of us, time is the one thing I don't have enough of. Operating my company, traveling, entertaining my 2 year old, and preparing for a second one keeps me moving at a ridiculous pace. With that being said, I would still like to help in some way. That stretch of Yellow Creek is very special to me. If there is anything I can do... .write a letter, place a call, whatever, please let me know. As soon as things calm down a little for me, I hope to become involved in your efforts. There are plenty of us from this area who appreciate the hard work and sacrifice of your chapter.

Keep up the good work....

Christopher Rupert

PROJECT UPDATES

- The Yellow Creek Coalition conducted several litter and debris collections this past spring as it has done in previous years. These cleanups are done in cooperation with local landowners in the watershed. Landowners who would like to work with the Yellow Creek Coalition for future cleanups can contact the Yellow Creek Coalition through the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited's web site at www.mltu.org or contact Fred Sherlock at 814-966-3176.
- Stream improvement projects that had been conducted on Potter Creek for the past fourteen (14) years were not accomplished in 2004. New and more complicated permitting procedures caused a delay in processing the permit and it was not received until after the summer construction season had passed. This long-term successful stream improvement project will proceed once again in 2005 with a three (3) year permit in place.
- Representatives of the Yellow Creek Coalition assisted Yellow Creek watershed landowners in clearing flood debris from their properties and in other flood recovery efforts that demonstrated the willingness and dedication of public motivated volunteers to assist not just the natural resources, but also the human resources in the Yellow Creek watershed.
- The Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited sponsored and Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited funded Potter Creek Cold Water Heritage Assessment Project is nearly complete. A public meeting will be held soon in order to ensure public review of the project that documents the past, current and future opportunities for the natural, as well as, the human resources in the Potter Creek and Yellow Creek watersheds.