



TALE OF THE POOL

SUMMER 2014

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Resource Mgt.-Tom Shetterly
Nursery-Rick McClintock
Banquet- Eugene Gordon
Membership- Hal Homler
Youth Education-Jim Tobal

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Membership Meeting: Wednesday, August 13th, 2014, Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA 7:00 p.m.
- Membership Meeting: Wednesday, September 10th, 2014, Gander Mountain Washington, PA 7:00 p.m.
- Membership Meeting: Wednesday, October 8th, 2014, Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA 7:00 p.m.
- Membership Meeting: Wednesday, November 7th, 2014, Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA 7:00 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On April 25th to 27th, Chestnut Ridge Chapter hosted the Southwestern PA Media Tour. National TU sponsored the tour as an extension of the Eastern Shale Gas Campaign. The participants included CRTU's President, Dale Kotowski, Monty Murty of Forbes Trail Chapter, Katy Dunlap, Paula Piatt and Jake Lemon of TU National and Eric Martin of Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters.

Eastern Shale Gas Campaign's mission is to engage sportsmen and women to protect fish and wildlife habitat from shale gas impacts. From this mission grew the Sportsmen Alliance For Marcellus Conservation, a coalition of more than 270,000 people. The Alliance involves individuals from Trout Unlimited, The National Wildlife Federation, Quality Deer Management Association, The Izaak Walton League, The Wildlife Society, Federation of Flyfishers, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Penn Forest Coalition and over 40 sportsmen's organizations.

The Alliance has identified the potential impacts of shale gas drilling on hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor activities. These include impacts on water, forest and wildlife, air



Photo by Dale Kotowski

The Youghiogheny River

quality, and sportsmen's interests. TU and the Alliance have held two shale gas summits and dozens of advocacy days in Harrisburg, PA and Albany, NY.

The Eastern Shale Gas Campaign has also undertaken the training of volunteers to monitor fish and wildlife habitat launching the Coldwater Conservation Corps water monitoring program in 2010. Today volunteers are monitoring over 200 PA streams many of which are high quality headwater streams. A similar

program is being developed in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

In 2012 TU identified ten special places in the eastern region where drilling should be limited or prohibited in order to protect irreplaceable fish and wildlife habitat. The Laurel Highlands of PA is one of these special places. The special places campaign identifies areas in PA, NY, WV, MD, VA, OH, KY, and TN that must be protected as shale gas reserves are developed. Continued on page 3.

CRTU COMMITS TO 2ND YOUGH SYMPOSIUM

BEN MOYER

At a July board meeting the CRTU board of directors voted to commit the chapter to holding the second-ever Youghiogheny River Symposium. "It's time for this," said CRTU president Dale Kotowski. "A lot of time has passed since the first symposium, the Youghiogheny is of greater value to the region than ever and there are new challenges to meet to keep it that way."

Indeed it is time. CRTU held the first Youghiogheny River Symposium at Penn State Fayette Campus 17 years ago in June of 1997. The exact date for the second symposium has not yet been selected but the board narrowed the choice of dates to a Friday in late June or early July of 2015. As with the first symposium, the second event will be a public presentation Continued on page 2.

CRTU COMMITS TO 2ND YOUGH SYMPOSIUM (CONTINUED)

and discussion of the river's importance to Fayette County and southwestern Pennsylvania, an examination of historic and emerging threats and challenges, and a call to continue protecting and improving the river's quality. In June a committee of Dale Kotowski and Ben Moyer visited Penn State Fayette and met with Continuing Education staff, which coordinates use of university facility facilities by outside groups such as CRTU. "The Penn State staff seemed excited and impressed by the presentation we made to them about CRTU's accom-



An angler casts nymphs for trout from a drift-boat near Elephant Rock on the "Middle" section of the Youghiogheny River, just above Ohiohole. The second-ever Youghiogheny River Symposium will highlight the Yough's attraction as a tailwater trout fishery as well as its other environmental and economic benefits to the region. Photo by Ben Moyer

plishments and ability to pull something like this off," Kotowski said. "It is apparent they want to work with us to make this a success." The committee evaluated several other venues as possible sites for the symposium but President Kotowski noted several advantages offered by Penn State Fayette. "The facilities there are just outstanding, every bit as good as we could get by going even to someplace near downtown Pittsburgh, and the price makes it a clear choice. Penn State's offer to reduce the auditorium, security and audio-visual equipment rental fees for a non-profit, public-service organization like CRTU makes this financially doable for us. More importantly it will keep the registration fee low, or possibly free, so that we can attract the greatest possible number of participants."

Kotowski also noted the advantage Penn State offered in being able to involve student environmental organizations, community trade associations and industry affiliates with which the university works frequently. Authorized by the board, the symposium committee has made a formal request for use of Penn State's facilities and arranged for the liability insurance coverage required by Penn State in order to hold such an event on campus.

The objectives of the second symposium will likely be similar, in general, to those of the first, with some refinements and adaptations to current conditions. "There's a sense that we might want to elaborate a bit more on the 'upbeat,' the positive, and the 'fun' aspects of having a healthy and vibrant river with an emerging tailwater coldwater trout fishery here in our backyard," Kotowski said. The 1997 symposium's stated objectives were:

1. To raise community and regional awareness of the value of the Youghiogheny River as a natural resource and tourism asset.
2. To initiate a planning process designed to minimize conflicts among diverse uses of the river and its resources.
3. To identify common goals and objectives of various groups and individuals so that the symposium might serve as a catalyst toward greater cooperation in promoting and protecting the river resource.
4. To review efforts already underway to improve the water quality of the river and its watershed.
5. To communicate to state and federal natural resource management agencies and political leaders that there exists a high level of local interest in the Youghiogheny River, and that local people are willing to commit time and energy to the river's future.

"This is a big job, but it doesn't have to be intimidating," said Ben Moyer. "In the first symposium we first selected the topics we wanted to put before the public, then we found speakers to discuss those points." Attendance at the first symposium exceeded 100 individuals, with numerous state and local elected officials in attendance. "We'd certainly like to exceed that this time," Kotowski said. Discussions with Penn State indicate that CRTU can "upgrade" to a larger auditorium and food service facility on the Fayette Campus if the number of registrations warrant. The board acknowledged the importance of teamwork and sharing responsibilities over the coming year while CRTU plans for this event, and seeks input from any CRTU members who helped with the first symposium in 1997.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM (TIC) TEACHER RECEIVES "CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Leanna Weimer, Turkeyfoot Valley High School TIC, was presented with CRTU's "Conservationist of the Year" award in late March. She received this award for her dedication to coldwater resource education through TIC, watershed clean-ups, hydroponics, recycling and other environmental efforts.

"She is an amazing teacher who goes above and beyond to provide quality coldwater resource education," said Jim Tobal CRTU TIC Coordinator. Her release days are filled with educational stations from aquatic insects, water quality, watershed hikes, clean-ups, and fishing."

"I am so excited to see the change in my students over the TIC year. They light up when talking about streams, their importance and fishing. This year a group of students clean-up a stream by themselves because they care so much."¹



Leanna Weimer CRTU's "Conservationist of the Year"
Left Dale Kotowski, Right Jim Tobal

¹ Reprinted with permission from the PA Fish and Boater Magazine

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

DALE KOTOWSKI

In 2013, media tours were held in the upper Delaware watershed in New York and in the Pine Gorge area in Pennsylvania. This year's tour to the Laurel Highlands was a rousing success generating a number of informative articles for media outlets in PA and surrounding states.

Our tour was held in and around Ohio. Participants gathered for a welcome dinner on Friday the 25th of April. On Saturday, the writers toured state forest and state park destinations that are likely to be included in new gas leases beginning in 2014. They also had the pleasure of a float trip fishing the Yough guided by outfitters from Wilderness Voyageurs, Laurel Highlands Guide Service and Nemacolin Woodlands. On Sunday, they toured well sites and pipeline facilities in Fayette County.

On May 23rd, Governor Corbett extended an Executive Order to allow additional gas leases on state forest and state park lands. These leases are contingent upon there being no new surface disturbance and supersedes an Executive Order issued by Governor Rendell in 2010 ending new leases after extensive sales of leases in 2008 and 2010. The consequences of these new leases on our region's watersheds and, especially, its headwater streams must be carefully monitored. All of our efforts must ensure responsible energy development.

The Youghiogheny offers a rare combination unequalled by any river in our area, in the East or anywhere else for that matter. The Yough's size, water quality, wildness of place, rapids, forage base, holdover capacity for trout, mileage and accessibility make it unique.

A special place indeed!

SEASONS ON THE YOUGH—SUMMER

DALE KOTOWSKI

The summer season is, perhaps, the Yough's best. Continual cold water releases from Yough Lake maintain ideal temperatures well downstream of Ohio. Summer hatches will find an aggressive population of rainbow and brown trout. Water levels are at the year's best for wading.

While other area streams are dependent on a terrestrial forage base in summer, the Yough has good hatches of Cahills, Yellow Drakes, Hexagenia, Tricos, Blue Winged Olives, and numerous species of caddis flies. That said, summer on the Yough is defined by the Isonychia hatch. The Slate Drake hatches on a number of central and southwestern Pennsylvania waters. Nastasi Caucci wrote of this mayfly in their book *Hatches*. They stressed the extended, sporadic nature of this insect's emergence. On the Yough, we often see Slate Drakes as early as mid-June and a few will be around in October. Even though this is a sporadic hatch, downright sparse at times; good size trout will rise even during the day to a properly presented imitation.

As a guide on the Yough for the last ten years, the summer season can be as easy as a dry dropper combination of a parachute adams size 12 trailing an Iso nymph of your choice. On large rivers, such as the Yough, the Isonychia emerges from the water's surface therefore an emerger should be a part of your life cycle imitations. Significant spinner falls occur near dark close to shore over knee-deep riffles. Watch for flights for male spinners at twilight as a tip on a good evening rise to come. Large fish will move into the shallows to intercept this spinner fall.

Lastly, summertime trout forage includes a variety of other aquatic "critters". Importantly, crayfish and sculpins make up a significant portion of a trout's summer diet, especially some of the larger fish. Over the years we have taken some of the largest brown trout while fishing crayfish imitations for smallmouth bass.

Bob Clouser's suggestion to fish his crayfish pattern on a dead drift will serve you well for trout and bass alike. Fish a pattern in olive or brown in size 4. In the summer, your sculpin patterns should be large; three to four inches long is not too big! I like to fish these during the day near shore in holding water where large trout are laying, only too happy to eat a fish in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Enjoy the Yough this summer.

Good fishing!



A disheveled Youghiogheny River *Isonychia dun*. Photo by Scott Hoffman

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We're on the web at
www.ChestnutridgeTU.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

FAYETTE COUNTY CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

JIM TOBAL

CRTU participated in the annual Fayette County Children's Water Festival held at the Fayette County Fairgrounds on May 22, 2014. Sixth grade students from area schools completed an activity and a random drawing of correct submissions was held to determine the winner of a fishing outfit. The winners of the outfits were Shelby Soberdash and Brandon Lawrence both students of Dunbar Elementary.

LAST CAST

FROM THE EDITOR

With the banquet mailing at the beginning of year, we sent out a membership questionnaire to get a better understanding of why people joined the chapter, what members wanted from the chapter, to improve participation in the chapter, identify potential volunteers, etc. Out of 400 plus members only 14 members responded. We have decided to re-issue the questionnaire, visit <http://questionpro.com/t/AK5DhZRQ14> to complete the questionnaire online. The questionnaire consists of 6 questions so it should take very little time to complete. If you completed the original questionnaire please don't complete it again. If you don't have access to the internet, please leave your name and address on my cell phone 412.596.5436 and I'll send you a paper copy of the questionnaire and a stamped envelop to return it in.

If you receive the newsletter by mail, and wouldn't mind receiving it by email to save the chapter printing and postage costs please email me at smh_1959@yahoo.com.

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeTU> and on twitter at <https://twitter.com/ChestnutRidgeTU>.

Many thanks to CRTU members Dale Kotowski, Ben Moyer, and Jim Tobal for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.

Scott Hoffman
