A Cast From The Presidents Pool

As I write this column we are four weeks away from our annual banquet. At press time, we have some very nice prizes which I’m sure will satisfy all of those attending our March 29, 2008 National Conservation Banquet.

It is hard to believe that this will be the chapter’s 18th banquet. It was Tom Cresci who first came up with the idea of running a National Conservation Banquet. He and John Bergevin, Jack Ganz and Ernie Pagliarini made up the nucleus of the original banquet committee.

Now, this was no small project for our fledgling chapter. Many months were spent on planning, logistics and soliciting prizes. To say the few weeks prior to the banquet were tense would be an understatement. But, as chapter old-timers may remember, the committee did a great job and the banquet was simply fantastic. Joe Humphreys was our first banquet speaker, and I think we ended the show around midnight that night.

The work of Tom and his committee in 1991 provided the blueprint for all future banquets. I still follow Tom’s basic setup scheme.

Stanley Cooper Sr. TU was honored recently by the Code Blue Foundation for its efforts to establish sufficient and consistent cold water releases on the Upper Delaware River. As you know, many members of Stan Cooper TU, and in particular chapter member Lee Hartman were integral in convincing National TU to support the need for larger, more consistent releases from Cannonsville Reservoir. We now have National TU on our side and things are looking bright for the wild rainbow trout population of the upper Delaware River. I accepted a check on behalf of the chapter from Dan Plummer of The Code Blue Foundation in the amount of $4000.00 at the Somerset Show. On behalf of the chapter, I would like to sincerely thank Dan and the Code Blue Foundation for recognizing our dedication and effort to preserve and protect the Upper Delaware River. I would also like to thank chapter member Phil Chase for his donation to the chapter for our efforts on the Upper Delaware. I am quite proud of our work to protect the river and honored to be a part of it.

Speaking of the Delaware, FUDR is holding a “One Bug” contest on the river at the end of April. There is a dinner and auction in Hancock on Friday night, April 25. (See page 6 for details). A few chapter members have mentioned to me the possibility of obtaining a table for the dinner. It would be nice if Stan Cooper TU made a strong show of support at the banquet.

I know that FUDR is contemplating a tributary restoration project on the river. It will be extensive and expensive.

If you are interested in attending the FUDR banquet in Hancock, see me at the March

Chapter Preparing for 2008 National Conservation Banquet

We are looking forward to our 18th Annual National Conservation Banquet, which will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the Best Western East Mountain Inn. Tickets for this event usually sell fast, so please call in early. We would hate to see someone miss out on attending what we hope has become an enjoyable evening.

We will kick off the festivities on March 29 at 5:00 p.m. with a long cocktail hour to allow everyone to inspect our auction and raffle prizes and purchase raffle tickets. We feel we have secured the best banquet prizes to this date. Graphite rods by Sage, Winston, and Orvis, a

Reserving March 29 Banquet Tickets?

Email Dr. Ernie Pagliarini at: empagliarini@hotmail.com.

$45 per ticket
Tables of 8 and 10 are available!
specially built Wyatt Dietrich bamboo rod featuring an unconditional lifetime guarantee, reels from Orvis, Abel and Lamson; Simms and Patagonia products, limited edition prints, guide trips, collector flies, and fly tying materials and tools are just some of the prizes to be offered in raffles, silent and live auctions. You can even challenge your skills on our putting green and win extra raffle tickets!

Dinner will be served sometime around 6:15 p.m. You will have a choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Fillet of Sole. (Please specify your choice on the banquet ticket as changes cannot be made on the night of the banquet) There will be ample time during and after dinner to continue bidding on our silent auction prizes or purchase some extra bucket raffle tickets.

Our live auction will start at approximately 7:30 p.m. After the live auction, the silent auction tables begin closing - randomly. As always, we will gladly accept Visa and MasterCard.

If you are interested in attending the banquet and would like to make reservations, please email Ernie Pagliarini at: empagliarini@hotmail.com., and then mail a check in the amount of $45.00 for each ticket to Dr. Ernie Pagliarini, 1291 Wyoming Ave., Exeter, PA 18643. You may also call 654-7960 or 881-5100, but please email if you can. If you would like to reserve a table, you can do so by sending a check for eight or ten tickets and asking that we reserve a table in your name.

**Outside Raffle Tickets**

You should by now have received your outside raffle tickets. This year we are offering a high quality digital camera as first prize, the popular Pendleton blanket as second prize, and an ipod as third prize. These prizes appeal to everyone and should make the few tickets you receive very easy to sell. As you know, a large percent of our banquet revenue is generated by our Outside Raffle. Please mail all returns to banquet co-chairman William Stricker, 41 E. Union Street, Kingston, PA 18704-4815, or bring them to a meeting. Thank you for your support. If you would like more tickets, please call Bill at 288-4600 (evenings).

**Tie Flies, Win Banquet Ticket**

Last year, we raffled off nearly 50 dozen flies at our banquet. These flies were donated by chapter tiers and The Montana Fly Company. We hope to have more this year.

We are asking our chapter’s talented fly tyers to consider donating examples of their work to this year’s banquet. The chapter member, or non-member contributing the most flies will win a free banquet ticket. ($45 value) Chapter board members are not eligible. For more information, contact president Mike Romanowski.
Welcome Aboard...Welcome Back
(period 1/1/08 - 2/29/2008)
The Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to welcome the following new members:

Bob Family
William Kane
Jeffrey Paznonski
Roswell Steinhauer

West Pittston
Wilkes Barre
Pittston
Dallas

The Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to welcome back the following renewing members:

Ron Ashton
Richard Baginski
Michael Baker
Sal Bottaro
David Caprari
Anthony Charnosky
Phil Chase
Eric Chepanonis
Aleta Connell
Phil & Judy Decker
Charles Epstein
John Gager
Robert Gaiteri
Richard Garces
Alex Gaudet
Edward Gieda
Joseph Grigasaitis
David Gryczko
Christian Hampel
Arthur Jump
Bill Kennard
George Kmetz
Richard Kumple
Bob Lambert
Julianne Lawson
Jerry LePore
Thomas Lyons
Rex Marino
Richard Marquardt
Stanley Mazur
Albert McCloskey
James Moody
Anthony Palischak
Jeffrey Paznonski
Jake Precone
David Ritter
Michael Romanowski
Carl Roszkowski
John Sedeski
William Stricker
Murray Swim
Richard Thrapp
Joseph Waytul
Justin Weaver
Tyler Yeager

Bear Creek Township
Lake Ariel
Wyoming
Luzerne
Pittston
Wilkes Barre
Port Jervis
Plains
Mountain Top
Dallas
Kingston
Plains
Kingston
Shavertown
Forty Fort
Wilkes Barre
Wilkes Barre
Dallas
Plains
Wyoming
Bear Creek Township
Wilkes Barre
Mountain Top
Mountain Top
Kingston
Dallas
Hazleton
Clarks Summit
Shavertown
Atlantic City, NJ
Wilkes Barre
Plymouth
Pittston
Sweet Valley
Wilkes Barre
Swoyersville
Hunlock Creek
Wilkes Barre
Kingston
Wilkes Barre
Nanticoke
West Wyoming
Lake Ariel
Mountain Top

Join Trout Unlimited,
The Action Organization

Regular membership benefits include:

- One-year subscription to TROUT magazine
- TU Calendar (mailed in the fall)
- Official TU membership card
- Car rental & hotel discounts
- TU decal
- Local chapter membership

**Membership Levels**

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Name______________________________
Address__________________________________
City________________________________________
State_________________ ZIP__________________
Tel________________________________________

Make checks payable to:  
“Trout Unlimited”

Mail to:

Stanley Cooper Sr. TU
P.O. Box 1723
Kingston, PA 18704
New Report Looks at Impact of Climate Change on Trout and Salmon

Report Analyzes Warming Climate’s Effect on Fish and Rivers

Washington, D.C. – Though climate change will have a dramatic effect on trout and salmon populations, a new report says that much can be done now to prevent widespread fish declines in rivers and streams around the country. Trout Unlimited’s new report, Healing Troubled Waters, highlights how global warming will affect our nation’s trout and salmon populations and the waters in which they live. Based on research by Trout Unlimited scientists, the report also provides recommendations for what can be done to help fish and rivers withstand these changes.

The report summarizes recent scientific studies that show that trout and salmon populations are likely to decline by 50% or more in regions around the country that will be most effected by global warming. According to new studies by the U.S. Forest Service, some trout species like the bull trout, found in high-mountain areas of the West, could see as much as a 90% population loss. Many trout species already listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act will become increasingly vulnerable to extinction. In addition, it has been shown that 20% to 40% of the Pacific Northwest’s salmon populations may disappear as a result of climate change.

“Climate change is not some uncertain future problem, it is happening right now and we see evidence in terms of reduced snow pack and earlier spring runoff,” said Jack Williams, Trout Unlimited’s senior scientist and one of the report’s authors. “Salmon and trout are among our most vulnerable species and their protection in the face of a rapidly changing climate demands strong actions,” he continued.

In the Appalachians, scientists estimate that up to 90% of the wild brook trout there could be lost due to climate change.

Though the statistics paint a somewhat grim future scenario for coldwater fish, the report provides a framework for what can be done to help rivers and fish build resistance and resilience to the effects of climate change. By protecting high quality habitats and healthy fish populations, scientists hope that fish will be able to endure warmer water temperatures and additional stress as a result of a warming climate. The report points out that these investments are crucial now, before widespread changes occur.

With Congress prepared to address climate change, the opportunity exists for making this a legislative priority.

“We are pleased to see that a number of members of Congress have recognized the need to fund and implement strategies such as these to combat climate change impacts on fish and wildlife resources and have introduced bills that would provide such funding,” said Steve Moyer, TU’s Vice President of Government Affairs.

“One of the most promising is the Climate Security Act, S. 2191, introduced by Senators Warner (R-VA) and Lieberman (D-CT), to be marked up in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee today, which would invest an estimated $175 billion thru the year 2037 on projects designed to enhance sustainability of fish and wildlife in the face of continuing climate change impacts. We urge Congress to pass the legislation as soon as possible,” said Moyer.

The complete report is available at www.tu.org/climatechange
As you are aware the battle to protect the Upper Delaware River’s wild trout and their habitat continues. It is the goal and mission statement of FUDR to continue to fight this battle and with supporters like yourself making this possible we would like to invite you to participate in the FIRST ANNUAL “UPPER DELAWARE RIVER ONE BUG” fly fishing contest. This three day event celebrates the sport and camaraderie of fly fishing by bringing together flyfishers like you to take part in the fishing, good will and further support of this magnificent fishery.

The headquarters for the 2008 ONE BUG event is the newly constructed Hancock House Hotel and will be held on April 25, 26 & 27. **This year’s roster is limited to 15 teams at a first come first serve basis.**

The proceeds from this event will be used to fight the ongoing battle for consistent cold water releases, habitat and stream improvements and the enhancement and protection of the Upper Delaware River’s wild trout fishery.

**Team Donation:**
- Two person team $2200
- Corporate Sponsor two person team $4000

**Included in the event:**
- Friday night buffet and live auction.
- Saturday and Sunday guided fishing.
- Saturday and Sunday breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**THERE WILL BE 60 GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THE FRIDAY EVENING FESTIVITIES AT A COST OF $100 PER TICKET.**

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS!! IT IS GOING TO BE A GREAT TIME!!!!!**

**For more information contact:**
- Jim “Coz” Costolnick  
  607-760-2270 cell  
  delawareland@echoes.net
- Dr. Peter Bousum  
  or  
  pbousum@starband.net
Penobscot River Salmon Restoration

As some of our members may recall, several years ago the Stan Cooper, Sr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited was an active supporter of restoring the natural flows of the Penobscot River to enable annual runs of Atlantic salmon. We were one of the most active chapters outside of Maine in this effort. In 2004, our activities were rewarded when a settlement agreement was signed among a variety of interest groups that agreed to remove a series of dams from the Penobscot. Funding for dam removal has remained a problem. The federal government has appropriated $10 million to purchase and remove three dams. This will restore nearly 1000 miles of key habitat for Atlantic salmon and other species. It has been a long, arduous process. However, this federal appropriation, combined with money already raised and previously set aside for dam removal, will result in improvements to fish habitat that will last for generations.

The Farm Bill

National TU has invested a great deal of time and effort in participating in the drafting of a new Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is one of the biggest pieces of environmental legislation. It sets policies and funding for a variety of programs that impact freshwater quality and quantity around the country. TU’s efforts have had modest success in the past and looked to be successful this coming year. Both the Senate and the House have passed versions of the Farm Bill that fund conservation programs. Unfortunately, the President has threatened to veto both versions. This has left negotiations in limbo. House and Senate negotiators can reach agreement between them but have been unable to obtain White House support. If this cannot be worked out by this spring, it is unlikely that a new Farm Bill will be approved until after the presidential election.

Mining Law Reform

In 1872, Congress passed a law that made mining the highest use for federal lands. For the past 136 years, this has remained as it was in 1872. No manager of federal lands has had the authority to deny a mining permit on environmental grounds. In addition, the 1872 law barred the federal government from collecting any royalties from any mining operations on federal land. There is now a better than even chance that the 1872 mining law will be amended to place mining permit applications under the same environmental standards as other uses of federal lands. And, any mining operation will be obligated to provide royalty payments to the federal government. These payments will go to a restoration fund to assure that land damaged by mining will be restored. The new mining law has passed the House. It is now in the Senate. Senator Harry Reid (D. Nevada), a son of a mining family and the Senate majority leader, is sitting on the legislation. National TU believes, though, that there is a good chance to move this bill to the Senate floor before the summer recess.

Climate Change

The leading climate change legislation is known as the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act. This bill would establish a cap and trade system for carbon dioxide emissions and implement CO₂ reductions over the next 35 years that would be sufficient to reverse global warming. Under a cap and trade system, a maximum level of CO₂ emissions is set each year. Companies that emit levels below the cap would receive credits. They could then sell those credits to companies that exceed emission levels. As the cap is lowered over the years, the total amount of CO₂ emissions will also be lowered and it becomes more cost-effective for all companies to
install CO₂ control equipment or change production processes to reduce CO₂ emissions. This bill would also establish a mitigation fund to encourage investment in new technologies. It is unlikely that this bill will see passage this year. However, Congressional action is likely in 2009. This bill is supported by national TU and many other environmental organizations.

**From The Stream……..Bob Evans**

Early in his career Bill Cosby had a great skit about Noah and the Flood. At one point, Noah becomes reluctant to build the Ark, and God utters that famous line, "How long can you tread water?".

After a dry few months in the middle of 2007, we finished the year 6 inches above normal rainfall. This year we are already 3 inches ahead. At this rate, it may not be a great year for dry flies. Adding to the increased rainfall affect is the redesign of Bowman’s which has changed the lower Barn Pool from a slow, deep pool to a series of riffs...ideal nymph water. In fact, if you love to fish Bowman’s as I do, you should visit the parking area at Marsh Creek as soon as you can and take a walk around...It's a different stream, and it remains to be seen if it is an improvement.

One place that is greatly improved is the area where Bowman’s reunites with Marsh Creek. They rerouted Bowman’s back to the point where they had previously connected, then re-enforced the road-side bank with huge rock deflectors creating a deep, long run that may develop into the best holding water in the stream.

Now's the time to start arranging your flies, if you haven't done it already. Maybe you should take another look and select a few egg patterns, weighted Wooly Buggers and assorted weighted nymphs including some of those WHITE ones we heard about recently.

A Care Package arrived the other day from Al McCloskey. Included with an article about the increased interest in the auction market for old fishing equipment, as much as $30,000 for an old reel, were a few dozen nymphs. They're going to come in handy. THANKS AL !!! Don't throw away any of your old gear!!!

**Wes Congdon, Loren Williams to Speak at March 11 Meeting**

The chapter is happy to welcome Wes Congdon and Loren Williams to our March 11, 2008 meeting. Wesley Congdon, 18, participated in the World Youth Fly Fishing Championships held last summer in central PA. Wes is a graduate of Mountain View High School and is currently attending Penn State-Worthington with civil engineering as his major.

Loren Williams, originally from Wyoming Valley, is currently coaching the US Youth Fly Fishing Team, a member of the US Fly Fishing Team, and was the team USA 2005 Team Fly Tyer. He resides in Rochester with his family where he is a registered fly fishing guide.

Wes and Loren will present a video on their experiences competing in last year’s Youth World Fly Fishing Championships. They may also tie some flies if time permits.

**Reserving March 29 Banquet Tickets?**

Email Dr. Ernie Pagliarini at: empaglierini@hotmail.com.

$45 per ticket
Tables of 8 and 10 are available!
Lawsuit Over Access to Fish Little Juniata River Resolved

Fishing preserve entrepreneur Donny Beaver has dropped his court case against state agencies, thus closing the book on a lengthy battle over the public's right to fish the Little Juniata River, one of the state's most coveted trout waters.

In a letter to Commonwealth Court dated Monday, Mr. Beaver's attorneys indicated that he would drop his challenge to a ruling handed down a year ago by Huntingdon County Common Pleas Judge Stewart Kurtz, stating that the Little Juniata is navigable and open to the public.

Mr. Beaver had claimed that a section of the river was private and could be fished only by members of his club.

Mr. Beaver's appeal was tentatively scheduled to be heard in April.

"This sets precedence on the [Little Juniata]," said Dennis Whitaker of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and lead attorney for the state. "It prevents Beaver from making future legal challenges on the Little J, and discourages anyone else from doing the same thing, since case law is pretty clear that if any part of the river is navigable, the whole river is navigable."

Mr. Beaver's attorney, Douglas Y. Christian, did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Discontinuing the appeal keeps Judge Kurtz's decision legally binding only on the Little Juniata, according to John D. Echeverria, executive director of the Georgetown Environmental Law and Policy Institute at Georgetown University.

"Beaver has prevented the case from turning into legal precedent that would have binding effect across the state," he said, "although it nonetheless represents a persuasive authority with regard to other cases."

In 2003, the DEP, the Fish and Boat Commission, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Spruce Creek fishing guide Allan Bright sued Mr. Beaver and his Spring Ridge Club for advertising a 1.3-mile section of the river as private, and chasing non-club members from the water. The state won its case in June 2006, by proving that the river was used historically as a public highway.

Still unresolved is Mr. Bright's damage claim against Mr. Beaver and the club for lost business, although Mr. Bright's attorney, Stan Stein, said that case will now move forward.

"One would have to assume that Beaver is more willing to settle than he would have been before," he said. "Regardless, we are going to pursue Allan's claim for damages."

By Deborah Weisberg, Special to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

New Board Members Appointed

Two new board of directors were appointed at the February 5, 2008 Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board of Director’s meeting.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Gary Silverstein and Heide Cebrik to fill two open positions expiring in October 2008.

Board members Hank Stegmueller and his wife Judy resigned their positions in January 2008. President Mike Romanowski and the board would like to thank both Hank and Judy for their hard work and dedication they displayed throughout their tenure.

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We Hope You Enjoy Our New Website at www.SCTU.org

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April 8 Meeting to Feature Jonas Price of “The Feathered Hook”

The chapter’s April 8th meeting will feature Jonas Price, owner of The Feathered Hook Fly Shop in Coburn, PA on the banks of the famous Penn’s Creek.

Jonas will be presenting a program on “Classic Rods and Reels.” Fishing with bamboo rods has made a resurgence in the past 5 years. Many anglers are constructing their own rods and contemporary rod builders have multi-year waiting lists.

Come and enjoy what should be a fascinating night of bamboozling. Find out the current value of your grand pop’s Heddon or Pfleuger Medalist.

Feel free to bring your tackle, we’ll gladly appraise it for you. As always our meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

GOVERNOR RENDELL SIGNS NEW LICENSE TRANSACTION FEE INTO LAW

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) announced that Governor Edward G. Rendell has signed House Bill 1109 into law (Act 2 of 2008) resulting in a small license transaction fee for anglers effective immediately.

The PFBC and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are jointly developing a new electronic license delivery system known as the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing Service.

ATTENTION STAN COOPER TU MEMBERS: SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD & GET A 10% DISCOUNT OFF ALL PURCHASES AT A&G OUTFITTERS!
Celebrate Opening Day
with Stan Cooper TU

April 12 marks the Opening Day of trout fishing in Northeastern Pa. The chapter will celebrate this day on its adopted stream, Bowman’s Creek. We are planning on having coffee and donuts or cake available to all Bowman’s Creek anglers in the morning and then hot dogs, burgers, soup and maybe even some chili for lunch. All of this will be offered free as a way of improving public relations and hopefully hooking a few new members.

Chapter board member Dave Cebrick is in charge of this event and looks forward to its success. We are having a large sign made promoting the chapter and will have a tent set up.

Anyone interested in helping Dave with this event please see him at the March meeting or give him a call.

Throwing Small Stones at Large Trout

I once read that British anglers of yore would actually stone pools, on the fabled chalk streams of Hampshire. The idea was to start a commotion, and get the trout active and feeding. I believe it was quite common practice, and was readily accepted on waters where nymph and wet fly fishing were banned as being unsporting. So much for English fishing ethics.

In reality, it worked quite well. Hallowed chalk streams such as the Test, the Itchen and others were being heavily stocked for aristocratic Londoners as early as the 1800’s. Since the most practical way to feed fish in hatchery raceways was and still is from above, the fish had become conditioned to feed anytime large amounts of small, rounded objects were tossed into the stream.

Let’s now talk about some real stones, stoneflies that is. It’s mid-February and already they are hatching profusely on our local streams. Fly fishermen call these flies “Little Black”, and “Little Brown Stones.” Scientists place these stoneflies in the families Capniidae and Taeniopterygidae. The Capniidae, or “Little Black Stones” are the first insects to hatch on our local streams. They thrive in cold winter weather, and are commonly found walking on snow banks along the stream on bright sunny days. There is no need to identify these insects beyond a family level, since they all resemble one another very closely. Size varies widely though.

(PALS) system. The PALS system eliminated the need for paper-based fishing licenses for the 2008 fishing year, which began December 1, 2007. PALS is managed by a private firm and the PFBC is charged a $.70 electronic processing fee for each transaction made through the system.

Act 2 of 2008 allows the PFBC to recover up to $1.00 in electronic license fees for each transaction from the license buyer. This means each license and permit currently purchased through PALS will cost $.70 each. The electronic processing fee will cost the average license buyer $1.40 to purchase a fishing license and permit, making it one of the lowest transaction fees of its kind in the country.

This new legislation also addresses replacement licenses and permits. Before the law passed, the PFBC’s fishing license and permits were individually priced at an average replacement cost of $14.25. PALS now allows the PFBC to combine the purchase of a license and all previously purchased permits into one replacement license for the low cost of $6.70.

The law also expands the blackout period for when One-Day Tourist and One-Day Resident licenses are not valid. One-Day Tourist and One-Day Resident Licenses are not valid for fishing during the period from March 15th to April 30th of any year. One-Day Tourist or One-Day Resident licenses issued to be used on March 14 will expire at 11:59 p.m. on March 14, regardless of what time the license begins.

Renew Your Membership?

Our current chapter membership is 248. Renewing Online is fast, easy and safe. Just type in WWW.TU.ORG and follow the directions to renew your membership. (Chapter No. 251).
from size #14-#20. The smallest stonefly found in North America, by the way, is a “Little Black Stone.”

Finding a stream in Northeastern PA that has a good population of these little guys is very easy. In fact, I do not know of any stream around here that does not have a fishable hatch of these insects. The only limitation to fishing this early hatch is that most of our trout streams are closed when the hatch reaches its peak in March. This restricts anglers to special regulation areas which are open year ’round. Fortunately, we are blessed with numerous special reg. areas in our part of the state. It is a simple matter to check the regulations booklet received with the purchase of a PA fishing licence to find the one closest to home.

While early season water temps. are usually not conducive to surface activity, the fish will feed on the adults with reckless abandon on bright sunny days. Angling friends of mine have told me tales of fifty fish days on streams like Nescopeck Creek in mid - March, when the water warmed enough to spur fish to rise.

Dead drifting small black nymphs near the bottom, and then letting them swing up to the surface at the end of their drift is by far the most effective way to fish this hatch. The nymphs of Capniidae do not crawl to shore to hatch as most other stoneflies do. This in-stream hatching characteristic makes them extremely vulnerable to fish. Many anglers score heavily on opening day fishing small, dark wet flies such as the Black Gnat. These flies, usually used in sizes 12-18, match the hatching adult perfectly. Tying your own versions of these flies is not hard. Keep in mind however, that the natural has a larger, stonefly “creepers.”

My favorite fly, especially if rising fish are in evidence, is a black #16 CDC dry fly. I fish it dry to risers, then pop it under the surface to mimic the emerger. CDC is an excellent material to represent emerging legs and wings. Like maribou, it “breathes” underwater.

Not long after the “Early Blacks” have reached their peak, the Brown Stones begin to hatch. Belonging to the family Taeniopterygidae, this family is very important to anglers in the weeks following opening day. Slightly larger and lighter colored than their Capniidae cousins, they are often found sunning themselves on bridge abutments, with their newly shed nymphal sheaths not far away. I must confess that I have never been privileged to witness one single adult ever being eaten by a trout. I think this has a lot to do with the hatching characteristics of this stonefly. Taeniopterygidae hatch much like the majority of other stoneflies, crawling up onto rocks, limbs and other structures located on or near shore before shedding their nymphal skins. This makes the adults relatively inaccessible to the trout.

Nymph imitations work well however, and should be fished upstream, using a dead drift presentation. Nymphal imitations of these stoneflies should also be tied with slender abdomens. Strike indicators, or should I say flow indicators are an invaluable aid in detecting strikes when using this method.

I have learned to genuinely enjoy early season nymph fishing. It can be more productive than dry fly fishing, and given a choice to catch fish or not catch fish... well... I’ll swallow my pride anytime for a fish.

One March afternoon a few years ago found me on the then new Delayed/Harvest Area on Tunkhannock Creek which is located on Keystone Junior College property near LaPlume. While not as clean and cold as Bowman’s Creek, it contains fabulous hatches of early black and brown stoneflies. (not to mention Hendrickson’s and Grannoms) Fishing a small black stonefly nymph produced non-stop action. One cast to the tail of a large, deep pool veiled by a massive willow tree produced a vicious strike. Rearing back on the rod only made the fish dig deeper. After about thirty seconds of struggling, BAM!, the tippet snapped. Now that fish could have been a large carp - I never saw it - but if it was a trout ...well it was big to say the least. So go ahead, through some stones, the American way.

Mike Romanowski
The Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter Of Trout Unlimited

The Action Organization

Calendar of Events

March 11…… ............Wes Congdon, Loren Williams
“Team USA Fly Fishing”

April 8 .......... Classic Rods and Reels with Jonas Price

All monthly meetings of the Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited are held AT 7:30 PM AT THE VFW ANTHRACITE POST 283, 757 WYOMING AVE, KINGSTON, PA 18704. All Meetings are Admission Free and Open to the Public.