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# THE REEL STORY

Volume 21, Issue #5



November/December 2008

## *A Cast From The Presidents Pool*

The chapter held its annual elections at the October general meeting. Elected to the board for three year terms were: Bill Stricker, Gary Silverstein, Heide Cebreck and Joe Ackourey. Other highlights of the October meeting included nationally renowned fly tyer Ted Patlen and his traveling animal troupe tying up some simple but effective trout flies. This was the first time we used a camera in conjunction with our new media projector. Thanks to the expertise of Phil and Kim Mancini and John Morris, everyone was able to view Ted's tying techniques up-close.

We had planned some upgrades to the fly stretch on Bowman's Creek this past year but the federal and county stream restoration work is not yet completed. While we had hoped to begin some of our projects this fall, they will just have to wait until next spring. Projects planned include improving and expanding the parking area at Marsh Creek, and creating a riparian area along the stream. On the bright side, those anglers who have been frequenting Bowman's Creek have reported excellent fishing.

As I reported in the last issue, Tim Mahovich, owner of **Pocono Mountain Rods** has generously donated an heirloom quality bamboo fly rod based on the Payne 98 taper to our chapter to be used as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$5.00 each and we will sell a limited number of 500. Tickets are available at all chapter meetings and directions how to get them in the mail are on our website, [www.sctu.org](http://www.sctu.org). The drawing will be held at our March general meeting.

Of latest concern is drilling for natural gas in Marcellus shale in our area and its impact on local trout streams. The drilling process, called hydrofracking involves shooting millions of gallons of water and other chemical compounds at extremely high pressure underground to break up the rock. Hydrofracking requires more water than most other types of drilling, and the other, sometimes toxic chemicals used are protected as trade secrets. It should also be noted that the effluent produced is also commonly radioactive, as the liquid becomes contaminated with radioactive isotopes as it passes through the shale. Permits have already been granted by the PA DEP for gas companies to remove substantial amounts of water from **Bowman's Creek, Tunkhannock Creek** and the **Lackawanna River**, a class A wild trout stream. This is serious business folks as

massive amounts of environmental damage can result from this process. We are in the process of forming a committee to learn more about this drilling.

On a brighter note I had the opportunity to go steelhead fishing a couple weeks ago with chapter past president and my good friend Tom Donnelly. Tom had never been fly fishing for steelhead before and had heard all of the horror stories of crowds and the associated lack of fishing etiquette. After spending two and a half



Tom Donnelly with a trophy brown

days of fighting fish in solitude, I think he was pleasantly surprised. He topped the weekend off with a beautiful 27" brown Monday morning right before we left to come home. Hot flies were bead-head Prince Nymphs and Hare's Ears #14. We will be running a chapter steelhead trip sometime in November or December, conditions allowing.

Our November 11 meeting will feature Crestwood student Tyler Kaminski. Tyler has put together a Power Point presentation on his time spent at PATU's Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp. As you may know Stan Cooper Sr. TU sponsored Tyler to attend this camp. It will be interesting to see what impact the camp had on this future conservationist. *Mike Romanowski*

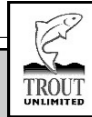


## The Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter Of Trout Unlimited *The Action Organization* *Calendar of Events*



**November 11, 2008..... Tyler Kaminski**  
**December 9, 2008 ..... TBA**

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..**



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## Stan Cooper Sr. TU and Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., initiated and conducted by members of the Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited, serves military personnel who have been wounded, injured, or disabled to aid their physical and emotional recovery by introducing or rebuilding the skills of fly fishing and fly tying and by using and enjoying these skills on fishing outings and as lifelong recreation.

While initially focusing on the military personnel in the Washington, DC area, the Project has expanded nationwide and is offering its services and program to active military personnel and veterans in Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals throughout the country.

The Project's program provides basic fly fishing, fly casting and fly tying classes and clinics for the wounded and injured personnel ranging from beginners to those with prior fly fishing and tying experience who are adapting their skills to their new abilities.

The board of directors of Stan Cooper Sr. TU, led by Heide Cebrick are in the initial stages of planning a Project Healing Waters Day to be held at a date to be announced next spring. Heide, chairperson of the project, has already accomplished a significant portion of the groundwork necessary for such a large-scale event and is actively soliciting help from our membership and the community. If you would like to participate in one of the most important projects this chapter has ever undertaken, here is your chance. See Heide at the next meeting, give her a call at 675-4881, or drop her an email at: heide@baut.com.



Ted Patlen and Stan Cooper Jr.

## Stan Cooper Sr. TU Wants Your Pictures

Chapter vice president John Morris is asking all chapter members to send him pictures of recent fishing trips or chapter related activities. Fish are optional. As everyone knows our annual May meeting features an "All - You - Can - Eat" - Abe's Hot dog night where *From The Stream* columnist Bob Evans gives his yearly

"State of Bowman's Creek" report. This past May, John Morris and his wife Wendy put together a collage of photos taken from prior fishing trips. We showed the slide show on our new multi-media projector as we chomped on the dogs. It was quite a success.

To make things interesting, John is offering a prize for the best fishing photo, and again, it doesn't have to be of a fish. What the prize is only John knows, but we guarantee it will be worth the effort. You can give hard copies of photos to John at one of our upcoming meetings, or preferably email him the photos at: jmorris@Equilibriumequities.com.

the threat of ANS and hopefully will motivate them to change their behavior and practices related to other aquatic recreational activities that may also contribute to the spread ANS."

New technology and materials provide viable alternatives to felt. Some manufacturers are already using these newer materials on wading shoes and angling products. Preventing the proliferation of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) is central to TU's mission to conserve and protect North America's trout and salmon fisheries. The impact of ANS to native species is substantial, second only to loss of habitat, and is responsible for causing losses in biodiversity, changes in ecosystems, and impacts on economic enterprises such as agriculture, fisheries, and international trade.

The costs of preventing and controlling invasive species are not well understood or documented, but estimates indicate that the costs are quite high. "It's like a war on our streams, rivers and lakes, with a new enemy rearing its ugly head each week. First, whirling disease, then mud snails, then some invasive aquatic plant," said Jack Williams, Trout Unlimited's senior scientist. "We have to be more aggressive in our battle against the spread of invasive species." ANS are present in many rivers, streams and lakes around the country. For example, zebra mussels were first found in Lake St. Clair near Detroit, Michigan in 1986 and now infest waters from Vermont to Oklahoma. Each year \$30 million is spent in the Great Lakes to monitor and control zebra mussels, which are responsible for massive changes in the Great Lakes ecosystem including elimination of native mussels and creating toxic algae blooms. Additionally, zebra mussels are creating significant impacts on Great Lakes fishery resources and fishery restoration efforts. The invasive algae *didymo*, often called "rock snot", is present in rivers throughout the country, from the Upper Connecticut River in New Hampshire, to South Dakota's Rapid Creek. *Didymo* was first seen in New Zealand, in 2004. The country has placed a ban on felt boots for the upcoming 2008 season. A number of U.S. states where aquatic nuisance species are found have reportedly discussed the possibility of outlawing felt-soled wading equipment. For more information about invasive species and what anglers can do to prevent the spread of ANS, go to [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org).

## Trout Unlimited Founders Inducted Into Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum Fly Fishing Hall of Fame

Two founders of Trout Unlimited were inducted into the 2008 Fly Fishing Hall of Fame at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum earlier this week. Art Neumann and George Griffith, along with others, co-founded Trout

Unlimited 50 years ago on Michigan's Au Sable River with the intent to promote catch and release fishing practices and to create and preserve healthy habitat for trout.

"Trout Unlimited is proud to have two of its founders receive such important recognition from the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum," said Charles Gauvin, TU president and CEO. "Their induction in the Hall of Fame reinforces the critical angling-conservation link on which Trout Unlimited was founded 50 years ago."

The two join over 50 other fly fishing notables in the Hall of Fame, a designation created by the museum in 1985. Neumann was the first vice president of TU and was a fly shop owner and rod maker. Neumann is now 91 and lives in Saginaw, Michigan. Griffith organized the first meeting of TU at his cottage, "The Barbless Hook" and was a lifelong conservationist. He died in 1998 at 97. Trout Unlimited is the largest coldwater conservation organization in the U.S. and has 140,000 members, over 400 chapters. TU will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2009.

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### Upper Delaware Report

By: Lee Hartman, Delaware River Committee, PATU

The vote by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to amend the Water Code for the Upper Delaware to legitimize the interim Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP) has been postponed until December 10, 2008.

The Trout Unlimited Committee that includes NY, NJ and PA council members strongly urged the DRBC to postpone the September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 vote on the interim FFMP until a performance evaluation of FFMP is properly conducted to implement the changes needed to correct the plan's numerous deficiencies. The FFMP clearly demonstrated this past year the extreme conditions it creates that threatens the existence of the wild trout fishery in the Upper Delaware River. High water temperatures and yoyo releases were extremely damaging to the river and its ecosystem. Water temperatures soared to 80 degrees on the mainstem as early as June 10, 2008 despite near full reservoir levels. Mandated releases when called upon were raised to high levels then suddenly dropped within a 24 hour period exposing the river bed and aquatic life. Under normal FFMP schedule of releases the river was put into artificially drought like conditions despite the abnormal wet cool summer conditions. At one point the USGS Callicoon gage recorded 455 cfs flow, the lowest level in its history. The current policy puts the entire cold water habitat at risk that includes the Dwarf Wedge Mussel, (DWM) a

federally endangered species. The National Park Service sponsored a study on the DWM. The four year study ended in August and concludes that a 928 cfs minimum flow at Callicoon is necessary to protect the colonies. The US Fish and Wildlife, PA Fish and Boat Commission and the NY Department of Conservation have been notified of the existing threat to the DWM. The Delaware River Committee continues to meet with officials in all three adjoining states on a regular basis so that we can resolve our differences in order to maintain proper flows to protect the established cold water habitat without jeopardy to its users. Our next scheduled meeting is with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection November 13, 2008. The committee will also be represented at the December 10 DRBC meeting. *(There is a lot of work going on with the Upper Delaware situation that is not reflected in my report. FUDR and Trout Unlimited continue to solidify in their resolve to gain the proper releases necessary to protect the Delaware fishery. Both organizations along with The PA Fish and Boat Commission were instrumental in gaining a delay in the vote on FFMP. It was not an easy task as it required numerous meetings with all state agencies, a massive email campaign by many TU and FUDR members and our news releases with pictures of the devastation of the river and its habitat.—Lee)*

### Trout Unlimited Asks Manufacturers to Eliminate Production of Felt-Soled Waders and Equipment by 2011

Trout Unlimited has asked fishing equipment manufacturers to stop producing felt-soled waders and wading shoes by 2011 to help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) by anglers in America's rivers and streams. Many waders, wading boots and shoes used by anglers have felt-soled bottoms that are used to provide traction while walking in water. Felt is a material that transmits aquatic nuisance species such as New Zealand mud snails, the invasive algae called *didymo* and the parasite that causes whirling disease, a disease fatal to trout. Felt soles can very easily become impregnated with mud and other organic matter, and become difficult or impossible to clean and disinfect. "While the elimination of felt soles on waders and boots will not entirely prevent the spread of ANS, this action will help reduce the risk and help protect our precious aquatic resources," said David Kumlien, executive director of the Whirling Disease Foundation. This action will also help make the public more aware of

## Barry & Cathy Beck

Photographers, writers, fly fishing instructors and trip leaders, Barry and Cathy have written several fly fishing books, and their photos and articles regularly appear in many publications. Throughout the year, these consummate hosts escort groups to exciting destinations around the world. Visit their new web site at:

[www.barryandcathybeck.com](http://www.barryandcathybeck.com)

### Welcome Aboard...Welcome Back

(period 7/1/08 - 10/01/2008)

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

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Bill Brennan</b>     | <b>Kingston</b>      |
| <b>Alvin Erchsem</b>    | <b>Sunbury</b>       |
| <b>Michael Hewitt</b>   | <b>Plymouth</b>      |
| <b>Robert Jolley</b>    | <b>Mountaintop</b>   |
| <b>Sean Keeler</b>      | <b>Kingston</b>      |
| <b>Stephen Lawrence</b> | <b>West Pittston</b> |
| <b>Harry Lasinski</b>   | <b>Luzerne</b>       |
| <b>Josh Schaefer</b>    | <b>Kingston</b>      |
| <b>Joshua Thomas</b>    | <b>Nanticoke</b>     |

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

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Joseph Anistranski</b>       | <b>Forty Fort</b>       |
| <b>Richard Baginski</b>         | <b>Lake Ariel</b>       |
| <b>Anthony Charnosky</b>        | <b>Wilkes Barre</b>     |
| <b>Robert Chorpenning</b>       | <b>Kingston</b>         |
| <b>John Conyngham</b>           | <b>Dallas</b>           |
| <b>Thomas Cresci</b>            | <b>Wilkes Barre</b>     |
| <b>Skip &amp; Nancy Daniels</b> | <b>Pittston</b>         |
| <b>Stanley Davies</b>           | <b>Dallas</b>           |
| <b>Roland Deetz</b>             | <b>Sunbury</b>          |
| <b>Joe Dietrick</b>             | <b>Pittston</b>         |
| <b>Tom Donnelly</b>             | <b>Dresher</b>          |
| <b>William Downs</b>            | <b>Dallas</b>           |
| <b>Robert Eckell</b>            | <b>Glen Lyon</b>        |
| <b>Robert Gaiteri</b>           | <b>Plains</b>           |
| <b>John Ganz</b>                | <b>Luzerne</b>          |
| <b>David Guzofsky</b>           | <b>Nanticoke</b>        |
| <b>Christian Hampel</b>         | <b>Dallas</b>           |
| <b>Edward Jones</b>             | <b>Duryea</b>           |
| <b>James Kairo</b>              | <b>Shavertown</b>       |
| <b>R Klink</b>                  | <b>Duryea</b>           |
| <b>Dennis Kuenze</b>            | <b>Duryea</b>           |
| <b>Jim Marsahl</b>              | <b>Wilkes-Barre</b>     |
| <b>Albert McCloskey</b>         | <b>Atlantic City</b>    |
| <b>Allan Mizenko</b>            | <b>Wyoming</b>          |
| <b>E. Moore</b>                 | <b>Conyngham</b>        |
| <b>Jeffrey Paznonski</b>        | <b>Pittston</b>         |
| <b>Raymond Peal</b>             | <b>Wyoming</b>          |
| <b>Donald Pissott</b>           | <b>Hunlock Creek</b>    |
| <b>David Ritter</b>             | <b>Wilkes-Barre</b>     |
| <b>Thomas Rogler</b>            | <b>Tunkhannock</b>      |
| <b>Richard Sanders</b>          | <b>Hanover Township</b> |
| <b>James Specter</b>            | <b>Shavertown</b>       |
| <b>Vincent Taninies</b>         | <b>Shavertown</b>       |
| <b>The Evening Hatch</b>        | <b>White Haven</b>      |
| <b>John Wilkes</b>              | <b>Nanticoke</b>        |

Renewing is fast, easy and secure. On your computer type in [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) and follow the directions to "Renew Your Membership". Don't forget, our chapter number is 251. Our current chapter membership is 243.

## Join Trout Unlimited, The Action Organization

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## Legislative Report

By: Ralph Kates, Esq.

Presidential election politics has dominated Washington and Harrisburg for the past two months. Everything else has been put on a future "to do" list or subsumed into the election campaign.

Now, the first public explosions of the financial crisis in September seem like old news. Even so, the financial crisis will affect everything the next President faces and will impact Pennsylvania's state budget, as well. Though not as bad off as

some states, Pennsylvania will face a significant budget shortfall over the next 12 to 18 months. Pennsylvania has over \$700 million in its "rainy day" fund, but that will be exhausted in less than 60 days because revenue has fallen precipitously. Next to go for the Pennsylvania budget will be funds from the Welfare and Education departments. Reductions in other state operations will follow.

### The Federal Budget

In late September, Congress passed and President Bush signed, a federal budget that will operate the federal government only until March 6, 2009. The total cost exceeds \$630 billion. Among other problems with this budget is the fact that the federal fiscal year runs until the end of September 2009. This means that, within the first six weeks of taking office, the next administration will need to address how to fund federal government operations between March 6, 2009 and September 30, 2009. Then, the federal government will need to address funding for federal operations for the budget year beginning October 1, 2009. In addition to appropriating funds, the September 2008 budget lifts the ban on new offshore oil drilling on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States. The September 2008 budget contains \$488 billion for the Pentagon, \$40 billion for homeland security, \$73 billion for veterans programs and \$25 billion in loan guarantees for the automakers. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are funded separately. Earlier in 2008, Congress approved \$70 billion for those operations. That money will be exhausted by mid-2009. The various "bailout" measures that have received so much media attention recently total approximately \$1 trillion. The bailouts are in addition to the federal budget. Consequently, we will be looking at spiraling federal deficits for several years into the future regardless of who has been elected to fill the Presidency and open seats in Congress.

### From The Stream .....Bob Evans

You've heard "Timing is Everything". When it comes to fishing, being at the right place at the right time makes all the difference. In 2007 Gary Silverstein, Dick Gareis and I went to Canada to catch the great Atlantic Salmon. The weather when we got there was just about perfect...enough rain to raise the river and invite the Salmon to swim upstream to their spawning riff or tributary from whence they came. Unfortunately, the major run was delayed, and perhaps turned back, because of Ice Jams at the mouth of many of the rivers creating water colder than normal.

This year, 2008, All the conditions were perfect, and although the "EXPERTS" were predicting a lower than average return, the

documented return as of early September is nearly double the average. Included in the count was a 52 -inch hen fish that was spotted in the Juniper Pool of the North Branch of the Little Southwest Miramichi River. That's less than a mile upstream from where we fished in 2007. More impressive is the reality that there are many places on this branch where you can wade up the middle of the stream and touch both shore lines with the tip of your rod.

Now if that doesn't whet your appetite, how about the 80.4 lb. Salmon caught on the Alta in Norway. That weight was not verified, because the fish had been cut up and smoked before precise measurements could be made. YES, there are still people who don't understand the true value of a fish that size to the gene pool, even in sophisticated Europe! A 54-pound fish caught by a staff member of Atlantic Salmon Federation WAS returned. My thanks to Atlantic Salmon Journal for these stats.

Locally, Rich our treasurer, reported at the last meeting, he and some friends had one of those days on the Lackawanna where they found fish stacked up and hungry. They caught fish all day up to 26-inches. Rich, you didn't call me! That's what cell phones are for.

Our home stream, Bowman's Creek was stocked in early October and it seemed the fish went immediately into spawning mode...Jumping, cruising and chasing each other around the holes. Water was low, clear and cold and it could be the fish where skittish because of their vulnerability in these conditions. Some fish were being caught but no pattern was determined even though a good hatch of caddis took place each time I was there. As for the stream itself, the changes made in the past year held up well. You would be surprised how deep the water is behind those deflectors. The stream desperately needs some more shade trees, and it will be interesting how well the stream bed holds through the Winter and Spring water conditions.

**P.S.**, we could use more water on a regular basis before the bitter cold weather arrives.

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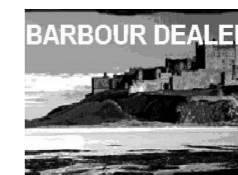
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