Stan Cooper TU Web Site: www.sctu.org

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

September 9 … … Don Baylor “Fly Fishing in Colorado”

October 14 … Ted Patlen “Fly Tying Demonstration”

November 11 … Tyler Kaminski “PATU Rivers and Youth Fly Fishing Conservation Camp”

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.

A Cast From The Presidents Pool
Stan Cooper Sr. TU completed its 8th Annual Youth Camp this past June 14 and once again we had a full house.  Youth camp chair Joe Ackourey did an outstanding job organizing the camp and recruiting students and instructors.  Thanks as always to chapter member John Sedeski and son John Jr. for their hospitality and the use of their fishing and hunting camp on Bowman’s Creek.  Both John and John Jr. not only provided accommodations for the camp but also participated by giving the students a tour of their hatchery, and supplying each child with his or her own trout that they personally let go into Bowman’s Creek!

Tim Mahovich, owner of Pocono Mountain Rods has generously donated an heirloom quality bamboo fly rod to Stan Cooper Sr. TU to raffle as a fundraiser.  The rod is based on the Payne 98 taper, a 7 foot, 2 piece, 3-4 weight.  Each Pocono Mountain Rod is hand planed by Tim to exacting tolerances from start to finish.  Tim uses only high quality components to adorn the rod, personally turns his own cork grips from the finest Flor Grade Specie Cork available, and obtains the finest silk for wrapping.  Tim’s mentor was the late George Mauer, a name very familiar to those of us who fish & collect cane.  Tickets will be $5.00 each and we will sell a limited number of 500. We should have the tickets available for our September meeting with the drawing to be held in early March.

In July, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and the City of New York, unanimously approved a temporary program to protect the Upper Delaware River from thermal stress associated with high ambient temperatures, i.e. “heat waves.”  Under this agreement, known as the “Interim Excess Release Quantity Extraordinary Needs Bank for an Emergency Thermal Releases Program for Fishery Protection,” DEC is authorized to make emergency releases from a bank of nearly one billion gallons of water in the Cannonsville Reservoir to moderate temperature spikes until September 15, 2008.  While some hailed this as a victory, it should be noted that releases will occur only when the three-day average of forecasted daily maximum air temperatures for the Hancock, NY vicinity exceeds 90 degrees F and the minimum exceeds 65 degrees F.  Many of our members are avid Upper Delaware fisherman and spend much of their time in the Hancock area.  They know that this situation hardly ever occurs.  For more information, please see FUDR’s response inside the newsletter.

Lastly, we are planning a Bowman’s Creek cleanup and parking area improvement for this Fall.  If you can’t make the September meeting, check our website to find out the date.
The Real Story

The Real Story is the official newsletter of The Stanley Cooper Sr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited: published 5 times a year - bimonthly except for July and August. Send all correspondence to: The Real Story, 626 Church St., Swoyersville, PA 18704. E-mail: MROMAN 498@AOL.COM Editor: Michael F. Romanowski; Production and Distribution: Robert Evans. Current Circulation: 400 Copies.

Government’s Plan to Protect Trout Is a Sham, Says River Group

An emergency plan touted by New York City and the four states in the Delaware River Basin as a survival scheme to protect the priceless wild trout population in the Upper Delaware River System is a sham, according to Friends of the Upper Delaware River.

The plan concerns cold-water releases from NYC owned Catskill reservoirs into the river system. Throut thrive in cool water. But they are imperiled when air temperatures get hot, as they have this summer, and river managers fail to release sufficient cold water from the reservoirs to ensure survival of the valuable fish. With the trout population at risk this summer, the parties to the U.S. Supreme Court’s watershed management decree — New York City, New York State, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware — created an Emergency Thermal Release Program designed to save the fish.

But instead of seeking a real solution to the crisis, the decree parties used public relations “spin” to tout a smoke-and-mirrors approach to the problem, says FUDR, a not-for-profit organization formed in 2003 to monitor watershed management actions by the decree parties and the Delaware River Basin Commission and advocate a common-sense approach that protects the trout population while heading the needs of the human population. FUDR monitors water flow from the Catskill reservoirs and has been highly critical of irrational, yo-yo releases — heavy when the river doesn’t need the water, then a trickle when it does.

This four times the summer temperatures in the Upper Delaware River have reached highs that imperil trout — especially its famed rainbow trout — and the endangered wedge mussel. After multiple policy sessions regarding the issue, the decree parties relinquished 1 billion gallons of water earmarked for thermal management — a miniscule amount that is approximately one-third of 1 percent of the storage capacity of the reservoirs.

But the plan set nearly unattainable benchmarks to activate the water releases.

“In order to gain a single drop of additional water from New York City-owned reservoirs, air temperatures must be predicted to reach or exceed 90 degrees for 3 consecutive days, and the low temperature cannot go below 65 degrees during this same period,” said Lee Hartman, Delaware River chairman for Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited. “It makes no sense as an environmental protection program and does nothing to alleviate thermal stress for the trout.”

“I have not been able to find one case this season where we would have received any additional water for the fishery under the new emergency release plan,” said Dan Plummer, chairman of FUDR.

“Three consecutive days of 90-plus highs and lows above 65 very rarely happen in this area. In fact, our research indicates this plan would have been applied only five times over the last 25 years.”

Incredibly, the Delaware River Basin Commission made shameless claims celebrating its “flexibility” in implementing the sham plan, said Plummer. FUDR said duplicative comments about the plan were made by Pennsylvania DRBC representative Cathleen Myers and DRBC’s Carol Collier — comments the organization said exhibited “cynical disregard for the public’s intelligence.”

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Page 11

The Reel Story

FROM THE STREAM…cont. from page 5 had three flies snapped off when setting the hook. Speaking of missing fish. On my last trip to Bowman’s I missed 15 rises! I don’t yet know why. To further con- fuse me, as I was walking upstream at the end of the night, I saw a consistent rise near the other side. Two casts and a solid hookup produced a firm 12 inch Brown. Why the others didn’t result in a hookup is still a mystery.

As I wondered above, how will we pass our knowl- edge to the next generation? It became even more im- portant when I was recently diagnosed with the begin-nings of a disease that may eventually result in blindness. Won’t know how far it has progressed, if at all, until August. Let’s do what we can, while we can.

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Under old business, I had to travel toward Scranton for a meeting with our chapter in the Lackawanna River to inform Dick’s old friends who allowed him to walk through his yard to the stream. We traded stories for about a half hour, and I left a copy of Dick’s obit. He said several old-timers had heard of his passing.

This recent Youth Camp was the first Dick indeed. I hope I did his work spreading the wealth of equipment and flies with youth and adults who would appreciate it.

Dick Ackourey & Sons
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Check out our new and revised website:
www.sctu.org
Make sure to register on our forum!

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Page 2

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Stream Improvement
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Youth Committee
Anthony Polishak NA
Public Relations
Gary Silverstein

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The Reel Story

tion, poor land-use practices, acidic precipitation and sedi-mentation. A 2006 report by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a partnership of the National Fish Habitat Initiative, found that populations of the fish have been elimi- nated or greatly reduced throughout more than 70 percent of their historic habitat in Pennsylvania.

“This amendment specifically identifies goals and objec- tives to improve our understanding of the status of wild eastern brook trout and approaches for protection, manage- ment, and restoration,” Austen said. “The proposed amend- ment received overwhelming support during the public comment period when we were considering the addition.”

Austen emphasized that the designation does not prohibit anglers from catching and releasing or harvesting eastern brook trout, which is the Commonwealth’s state fish.

The native range of the eastern brook trout extends along the Appalachians from Georgia to Maine and encompasses 17 states. With the addition by Pennsylvania, 13 of the 17 states have listed eastern brook trout in their Wildlife Ac- tion Plans. Nationally, each state and U.S. territory was required by Congress in 2005 to complete a wildlife action plan in order to continue to receive funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for State Wildlife Grants pro- gram. Historically, since 2002, Pennsylvania has received approximately $2 million annually. These funds are shared equally between the Fish and Boat Commission and the Game Commission to address species identified in the Wildlife Action Plan.

As our members recall, Stan Cooper Sr. TU joined other PATU chapters last Summer in petitioning the PF&BC Commission to add the Brook Trout to its action plan.

Check out our new and revised website: www.sctu.org

Make sure to register on our forum!

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The Reel Story
New York State to obtain an agreement from the City for an Emergency Release. The effort was successful and a temporary 660 cfs release was ordered until water temperatures dropped to a safe temperature level.

Governor Rendell’s flood mitigation actions and New York State’s temperature reduction emergency release action is clear evidence that some of the states are beginning to realize FFMP is an inadequate plan. The warm water crisis bonded the fishing and flood prevention organizations working at the forefront. The Emergency Release could not have come about without a cooperative effort from Trout Unlimited, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Aquatic Conservation Unlimited, the North Delaware River Watershed Conservancy Ltd and the Pa Fish & Boat Commission.

The vote by DRBC to adopt the proposed amendments to the Water Code makes it consistent with the FFMP is currently scheduled for September. If the Water Code amendments are adopted the FFMP will continue to pose a threat to the wild trout fishery and the people who live along its shoreline. With this ineffective and dangerous flow management system, the fishery is left to depend on a summer stormstorm to get us through the risks that lie ahead.

Previous estimates and criteria for reservoir use and releases have been miscalculated resulting in a significant underestimation of the amount of water available in the Basin system. Under this false assumption that less water is available, the FFMP assures that the City can hold onto more water than it needs and more than it can safely divert out of the Basin. These fundamental mathematical errors and data manipulations lie at the root of the FFMP and completely undercut the Plan’s credibility. The fishing and flood protection organizations are continuing to work on the political, administrative and, judicial (if necessary) fronts to block action on the Water Code amendments and reject the FFMP. I am cautiously optimistic that a new management plan will be presented that will reflect a meaningful way to manage the water releases from the reservoirs without jeopardy to those individuals and communities downstream that use and enjoy the remarkable resources the River provides.

In the meantime the next few months are a critical period for the fishermen and river corridor residents. Despite somewhat reduced rainfall in June the NYC reservoirs remain nearly full. The Montague summer releases from Cannonsville reservoir can no longer be relied upon to cool the waters of the Upper Delaware. The meager releases under the FFMP continue to pose the biggest threat to the wild trout fishery and the people who live along its shoreline. With this ineffective and dangerous flow management system, the fishery is left to depend on a summer stormstorm to get us through the risks that lie ahead.

NATIVE EASTERN BROOK TROUT ADDED TO PA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has formally added naturally reproducing eastern brook trout to the Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan, the document that prescribes conservation measures for species and their critical habitats before they become more costly to protect and restore.

“The Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan is the guiding document for protection, management and recovery of species of concern,” said Doug Austen, PFBC Executive Director. “A major thrust of state wildlife action plans is to ‘Keep Common Species Common,’ and by amending our plan to include wild eastern brook trout, we are recognizing their needs and their habitats.”

The amendment, which was recently approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides goals and objectives for managing the species. Although wild eastern brook trout are doing well in Pennsylvania, their habitat continues to be degraded by pollu-

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

Welcome Aboard...Welcome Back
(period 5/1/08 - 6/30/2008)

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

- William Campbell
- Joel Colgan
- John Conyngham
- Billy Dombroski
- Harris Evans
- Mike Govlier
- Kurt Maas
- Michael Metavish
- Donald Olzesewski
- David Pavlick
- Brett Ressler
- Michael Sikora

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

- Christopher Bailey
- Christine Carter
- Wesley Congdon
- William Domnick
- Jay Downs
- Fredrick Eck
- Lee Eckert
- Kyle Grego
- Keith Kittle
- David Krafchik
- Leonard Levanda
- Michael Murray
- John Robertson
- John Wilkes

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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Make checks payable to: “Trout Unlimited”

Mail to:

Stanley Cooper Sr. TU
P.O. Box 1723
Kingston, PA 18704
The federal government has been occupied with Iraq, the collapse of the housing market and surging oil prices. Except for the defense industry, the U.S. economy is straining while inflationary pressures are increasing. Couple these problems with the usual political posturing that plays out during a presidential election year and you can appreciate why only a very few issues critical to the policy or improvement of the country will be addressed in 2008. It is more likely that we will hear about patriotism, religion, the economy is constricting while inflationary pressures are increasing. Couple these problems with the usual political posturing that plays out during a presidential election year and you can appreciate why only a very few issues critical to the policy or improvement of the country will be addressed in 2008. It is more likely that we will hear about patriotism, religion, the economy is constricting while inflationary pressures are increasing. 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Each bamboo fly rod that I make is considered in-active and in accordance with our by-laws (are not allowed to hold a board position), have access to a computer, and must be available to attend meetings. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Please make sure your membership is current.

Bamboo Rod Raffle
(Rod Donated by Pocono Mountain Rods)

Bamboo rod maker Tim Mahovitch has generously donated one of his rods to our chapter to be used as a fundraiser. It is a 7 foot, 2 piece, 4-5 weight “Trout Burn.”

This rod’s taper is the highly sought Payne 98. No changes were made to the taper design of this Bam. I have a number of them out there being fished. The rod is a 2/2 configuration with box matched tip sections and includes an Olive Powder Coated Rod Tube with Gold hardware—incorporating a rod bag.

Tim writes, “Each bamboo fly rod that I make is made from high quality, personally selected Tonkin bamboo. I start with a single culm of bamboo. That culm of bamboo is then flamed by me. It is then hand split by me, “never saw cut”. Hand splitting assures that the Power Fibers of the Bamboo run true for the entire length of the rod. The blank is completely hand made by me. That is important for me to point out because I do not use blanks made by another person.

Each Pocono Mountain Rod is handcrafted and hand planed to exacting tolerances from start to finish. I use only high quality components to adorn the Bamboo Fly Rod. I personally turn my own cork grips from the finest Flor Grade Specie Cork available. I use only the finest silk for wrapping.

When you purchase a Pocono Mountain Rod, you will have purchased one of the finest Handcrafted Split Cane Rods on the market. It’s important to point out that I am a low production rod maker; and what that means is that I am not rushing to get my product out the door; I produce quality not quantity. I depend highly on the word of mouth to market my product; and a totally satisfied client is essential to me, because, I need them to assist me in getting my name out there. High quality work, professional personalized services and affordable pricing helps make that happen.”

We will have the rod available for inspection at our September meeting. Raffle tickets will also be available at our September meeting at a cost of $5.00 each. We will only sell 500 tickets, and the winner will be chosen at our March general meeting. Tim’s rods are on display at Dick Ackourey & Sons or you may contact him directly at:

Pocono Mountain Rods
Heirloom Quality Bamboo Fly Rods
Timothy G. Mahovitch – Maker
570-455-3736
rodmaker@ptd.net

From The Stream……….Bob Evans

Saturday, June 14th, was a great day for 27 youth because of the dedication of many members of the Stanley Cooper Sr. Trout Unlimited Chapter. It was our annual Youth Camp and the first one in which I had the privilege to take an active role. Boy, did it bring back memories! It was like reliving my own early fly fishing efforts. Some youth picked up the timing of the cast right away, but many, like myself, had difficulty in both directions at once…Too fast. Some allowed the rod to drop on the back cast and the line hit the ground. I STILL DO THAT ON OCCASION!! Some fell in love with the flow of the cast and spent too much time false casting. Can’t catch a fish unless your fly is on the water!!! Some would make a cast then look to see what the other fishermen were doing. I had to caution myself not to cause “information overload” when assisting the youth. Some things they will just have to learn by experience. Made me wonder…have I been fishing for 55 years. How do I pass even a portion of that knowledge to the next generation? It made me appreciate the time Dick Gareis spent teaching others, including me, how to fish small flies. One thing I did was to give away more of Dick’s vests and flies to youth and club members.

A BIG THANK YOU to Jay Downs who supplied the fishermen with some bead-head Wooly Buggers. They produced more fish than any other fly. Jay was even nice enough to put up with me. Are you selling those flies, Jay?? Did I mention the food was delicious? This Youth Camp is exactly the type of program we should be doing more often. That plus the “Trout in the Classroom” are some of the few ways we can instill the love of trout fishing in the next generation. By the way, speaking about raising Trout in the classroom…During the last stocking of Bowman’s Creek, I spoke with some teachers from St. Michael’s School who had some students assisting in the stocking. They said they successfully raised 200 trout and released them into Bowman’s Creek. It sounds like they have one HUGE fish tank.

Now repeat after me…….NO FISH IN BOWMAN’S!!! I don’t know how these rumors get started, but I will willingly spread it as long as you and I understand that it’s all a matter of knowing the stream and knowing where the fish are at the right time. For example, lately I haven’t started fishing until 7pm and often don’t see the first rise until 7:30pm, but

From then until after dark there is fish everywhere. The Catch and Release Area isn’t the only hot spot on Bowman’s, so don’t give up on this great stream. OH, there are no trout in Tunkhannock Creek or Brohddhead Creek either!! WINK, WINK!!

With no newsletter in June, this is the first time I can tell you about the great fishing in the three streams I’ve mentioned. In mid-May I hooked and landed a Brown Trout over 20 inches in the fly stretch. I took him on a dry Tan Caddis with about 70 feet of line out. He made two trips the length of the pool and finally came to net after 20 minutes. This time I had my camera with me and a witness to boot. The film is being developed as I write this, so I’ll see if we can get a picture in the newsletter. Maybe a sworn testimony from the officer of the court who saw me release this beauty.

Three trips to Tunkhannock Creek and one to Brohddhead Creek were also productive even though it was sometimes pure guessing as to what they were locked on to, if in fact they were locked onto any one thing. The area I fished on the Brohddhead was a combination of fast currents which required the trout to hit quickly. So quickly in fact that I cont. page 11
Stanley Cooper Sr. TU’s 8th Annual Youth Camp June 14, 2008