



Tulpehocken Chapter  
Trout Unlimited, Inc.

# TullyGram

Vol. 14 - Issue 6

Fall 2008



The Newsletter of the Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
www.TullyTU.org

**"To Conserve, Protect, and Enhance the Quality and Quantity  
of the Cold Water Resources of Berks County, Pennsylvania"**



Photo by Joe Hnatishian

Stocking this fall on the Tully was separated into two sections. The upper section, from Blue Marsh down to Rebers Bridge received adult trout, while the lower section, from Rebers Bridge to the red covered bridge received fingerlings.

## Fish Kill on the Tully!

A Fish kill on the Tulpehocken Creek is the focus of a state investigation. Officials said Friday that they are investigating what caused dozens of fish to die this week in the Tulpehocken Creek below the dam at Blue Marsh Lake. The fish kill was first reported by fishermen on Monday, November 10th in the area of Reber's Bridge. The investigation is being conducted by the Fish and Boat Commission along with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

## Board of Directors Election

At the October Chapter meeting, Rick Bell, Aaron Fabian, and Steve Fabian were elected or re-elected to the TCTU Board of Directors. Also at the November 12th board meeting, the current board appointed David Frees to the open position resulting from the resignation of Bob Holmes. Congratulations guys and thanks for volunteering!

*"The two best times to fish is when  
it's rainin' and when it ain't."*

Patrick F. MacManus

## Tully Talk by Tom Garlow

First week of November, 2008, and the trees in the field behind my house have finally reached peak color. I can't recall this ever happening this late in the year. They were truly spectacular yesterday with the Blue Mountains on the horizon. I love this time of year. The Phillies are World Champions (my wife went to the parade while I worked), a new president has been elected (I hope your candidate of choice won and you enjoyed getting out to exercise your right), and the Tully House has had its face lift completed.



Photo by Beth Stone

This week is much warmer than last week. We are in that period of shifting weather patterns associated with changing seasons. Looks like showers in the forecast and a great time to get out to cast flies. Two weeks ago, on a stretch of Pine Creek which feeds into Penns Creek, my brother landed a 20 inch brown. His college roommate, Ziggy, landed a 24 inch brown, and I was lucky enough to hook up with a 15 incher, all out of the same pool. The big boy of the bunch had two big scars on his back from a Heron encounter, we presume. He also had a monster jaw line and was one aggressive beast of a fish. Unfortunately, this section of creek is on private property and not open to the public. (We are allowed to fish there through a couple of mutual friends).

Thanks again to TCTU member Dave Frees of Radical Restoration for all the time and effort he put into fixing the old house up after the fire. He did an amazing job. Thanks also to TCTU member John Pakradooni for donating carpet. The place looks great. We are still waiting on a couple of appliances, once those are in, we can have functions once again.

I see a new record was set this past season for a Palomino Trout. The monster fish weighed 13 pounds, eight ounces. I wonder how long it will be until monsters like that are pulled out of the Tully. Not to long I suspect. The trout was caught in Mahoning Creek (anyone familiar with this stream?) by a youngster named Eli Borger. Congratulations to Eli!

I ask how long until we see these fish in the Tully because it seems to me this is one of the tactics the state is going to use to attract license sales. Last week, the last stocking for the time being of

(continued on page 4)

*The TullyGram, the newsletter of the Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited, is published monthly. This is a free publication to the members of Trout Unlimited. All advertising in the Tulpehocken Chapter's newsletter MUST be approved by the Board of Directors, as must any outside editorials and submitted for publication. Advertising space is sold on a calendar year basis. During the year, ads may NOT be changed unless there is a change in the business (such as new phone number or change of address). Special ad space is available on a one time only basis and prepayment is required. Note: Submissions are due no later than the fourth Wednesday of the previous month.*

# Chapter News

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The chapter would like to welcome the following new members.

- Stephen Preite
- Andrew Arnold
- Tara Shores
- Brian Grill
- Jordan Demko
- Christopher Snyder

It's great to have you on board! Sorry if we missed anyone. Please plan on attending the next Chapter meeting. We look forward to meeting you!

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETING DATES

Please note that the November and December meetings are held a week earlier due to the holidays. The meetings will be held on the following days:

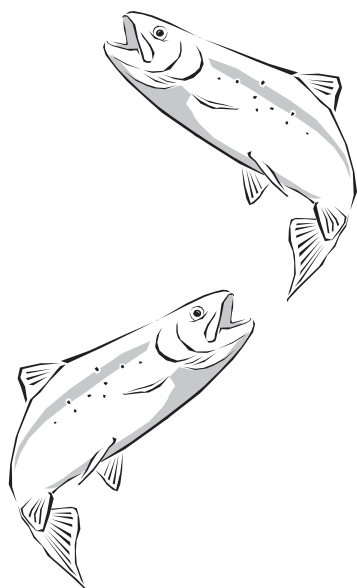
- November 19 - Chapter Meeting
- December 10 - Board Meeting
- December 17 - Chapter Meeting

## EASTERN BROOK TROUT JOINT VENTURE

The next meeting of the EBTJV (Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture) meeting will be held Monday, December 1st, 7:30 P.M. at the Berks County Agricultural Center. Those who have not yet walked their assigned stream are asked to try to have this task accomplished by the next meeting, as the weather will soon be getting too cold to do much.

Last month's meeting featured Ryan Zerbe giving a very interesting talk on stream assessment. He covered stream assessment tactics followed by an interesting overview of stream invertebrates and how they can give a snapshot as to the relative condition of a stream.

**We are trying to conserve resources and reduce costs by delivering the TullyGram by email. If you would like to help by signing up to receive the TullyGram by email, please send your name and email address to us at [tullygram@comcast.net](mailto:tullygram@comcast.net).**



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Len Good and the Resource Management Committee of TCTU currently have three upper Tulpehocken projects in progress. All three involve stream bank restoration. For two of the three, funding has been approved and is pending. Both of these will eventually be funded with monies from the Tulpehocken – Quitapahilla Grant to the PA Fish and Boating Commission, from AEC Ironwood LLC, whose Power Plant is located in Lebanon, PA. These grants are restricted to remediation of those two streams.

One of these is a continuation of a project on the Feeg Property outside of Wolmesdorf and involves bank restructuring, exclusion fencing, and planting of the right bank of the Tully. Left bank work was completed two years ago. Immediately upstream of the Marion Township Rod and Gun Club, a second project has been planned for the Sonen Farm, involving the restructuring and planting of seven hundred feet of collapsed stream bank. The project will also require relocation of an equal length of fencing.

On the west side of Wolmesdorf, an extensive bank rebuilding has gotten to the planning stage with permitting, design, and grant application being undertaken by Rettew Associates, a regional environmental engineering firm. Rettew has submitted an application for a Growing Greener Grant for the project, but no awards have yet been announced.



## AUTUMN IN MY KORNER KITCHEN

As the weather gets cooler and the days seem shorter, I have decided to share a really great fish soup recipe with you. It will appear you have spent much time in the kitchen to serve this delicious soup, but really, it is quick and easy; just have all your ingredients assembled before you start.

This is a great soup to settle in and enjoy on a Friday or Saturday evening, or even to relax and enjoy on a Sunday afternoon, sharing with friends.

## Gloria's Korner Kitchen *Glo's Special Fish Soup*

- |                               |                                 |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • 2 T. Olive Oil              | • ¾ c chopped red bell pepper   | • ½ to ¾ lb. sea scallops |
| • 1 c. chopped onions         | • 1 c. dry white wine           | coarsely chopped          |
| • 2 minced garlic cloves      | • 2 – 8 oz. bottles clam juice  | • ½ tsp fresh ground      |
| • 5 T. tomato paste or 1 med. | • ½ lb skinless halibut filet – | pepper (to taste)         |
| size can tomato sauce         | cut into 1 "pieces              | • 1½ tsp. chopped fresh   |
| • ¾ c. chopped fennel bulb    | • ¾ lb peeled and deveined      | tarragon (optional)       |
| • ¾ c. grated carrots         | shrimp – coarsely chopped       | • salt to taste           |

Heat olive oil in a large Dutch Oven over medium high heat. Add onion and sauté 2 minutes; add the garlic, stir another minute. Reduce heat to medium and add the tomato paste or sauce and cook for 7 minutes. (If using paste, stir until the paste begins to brown.) Add the fennel, carrots, peppers, wine and clam juice. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until veggies are tender. Gently stir in the fish, shrimp and scallops. Cover for approximately 5 minutes, uncover, add last three ingredients if desired, and serve.

Note: for an extra gourmet touch – add some clams and mussels for color and great taste. The juice from the clams and mussels add great flavor! Enjoy with garlic bread and your favorite salad, and wine or beer.



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## TULLY TALK (continued from page 1)

"fingerlings" was conducted. To ensure everyone's fishing pleasure come springtime, The PFBC is going to also stock adult trout overtop of the fingerlings already stocked. There seems to be some skepticism as to the survival of fingerlings these days, though they did quite well in the past. Utilization is going to increase on the Tully, that is a fact. The state, moving forward, is only interested in stocking adult fish that are easier to catch. (That is my opinion). I personally don't like showing up to do a little fishing just to find every decent available fishing area is occupied by one or, often times, more folks casting flies.

The only thing we can do, it appears, to combat over-utilization (drive the length of the Delayed Harvest area) is to increase available fish holding habitat. Look at how much of the 4 mile stretch never gets fished because it holds very few trout. We are currently discussing ways to get a project(s) started that will increase and improve habitat. This of course will require a great deal of effort and funding. We will keep you posted on our progress.

The November meeting will feature TCTU member Doc Plu-  
cinsky giving a detailed assessment of management in the delayed  
harvest stretch and the benefit of fingerling stocking versus adult  
stocking. Doc has put together a wealth of data that is very compel-  
ling with respect to how the fishery used to be managed and why it  
should continue to be managed in that fashion. Please come out for  
an informative evening.

In December we have John McMinn, speaking on fly fishing in  
the Chesapeake. Something I would like to try one of these days.

In January, plans are being made to hold a great kickoff again,  
featuring George Daniel from State College TCO. George is the all  
world everything, when it comes to casting and catching fish. He  
gave an incredible demo at our August meeting, by all accounts  
maybe the best guest we ever had. You have to see this guy's casting  
expertise to be believe it. We are looking to hold our evening get to-  
gether over at the Jantzen Center on the campus of Penn State Berks.  
Please look for details to follow. He will be doing a video presentation  
on Czech nymphing techniques, the latest method for success by  
competitive anglers.

By the time you read this newsletter, selections of new officers  
and board members will have been completed. As always, here is my  
plea for you to get involved with your organization. We are making  
efforts to get more involved with the Penn State Berks Fly Fishing  
Club, why not you as well? We need some new blood in the leader-  
ship, this is essential for the long term success of any organization.

Thanks again to all the volunteers that have helped on projects,  
education initiatives, and fund raising this past year. I know we don't  
do a good enough job of identifying those folks. Your efforts and time  
invested are truly appreciated.

Fall is a great time to get out to fish with a kid that has never  
been on a stream before. Try to find some time to get out and make a  
difference in some youngster's life. Nothing better than an afternoon  
of fishing!

Peace. *Tom*



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There are several organisms that we don't often consider when fly fishing, but still may be important in trout diets. Several, including midges, are important foods at virtually all times. The others are probably significant food sources only on occasion. Imitations of all should be tied, carried and used, especially at times when we are not quite sure what the trout are really taking and when they are feeding opportunistically.

For much of the past summer I have been fishing the unusually reliable Trico hatches and finding that although the fish appear to continue to surface feed for several hours, they often actually shift their attention from Tricos to something different as the spinner fall wanes.

Recently the shift has been from Trico spinners at the surface to midge pupae slightly lower in the water column. This has been a little easier to figure out than things were, earlier in the summer, because the feeding after the transition from Tricos that takes place does not involve as much disturbance of the surface film. When Tricos are the food of choice, you can usually clearly see mouths and fins breaking the surface. As trout begin to feed at a slightly lower level, you see only subtle rings on the surface. No parts of the fish break the water and no bubbles are formed. Of course, on occasion, the appearance of adult and emerging Caddisflies can complicate the issue. The infrequent splashy rise and clearly visible take of an adult caddis can mislead you into thinking that the shift has been from Tricos to caddis, when the fish are actually feeding mainly on midges.

About a month ago, I began to add a variety of sinking Midge patterns as droppers, eight to twelve inches below a high floating CDC caddis. Although, much of the time the midge was taken, I sometimes had hook ups on the indicator fly. Rarely the caddis hatch was the more significant event. The caddis was very small – lately, it has been a microcaddis, about size 24. The use of the indicator fly made the subtle midge takes quite easy to spot. The least movement of the indicator caddis was usually the result of a brief and gentle take of the midge. I began to realize how many fish I had been missing when I used only a sub-surface midge even fishing taught-line. A refinement was the use of a #24 or 26 Blue Winged Olive dun as the indicator. The olive consisted only of dubbing and a dense, upright, white CDC wing. Rather than use an intact CDC feather, I made the wings from an Umqua™ product packaged as CDC dubbing. It is exceptionally easy to use. Simply pull a small amount from the package which in one motion aligns the CDC barbs that can be tied directly to the top of the hook after the dubbed body is completed. This tiny fly floats well and is an even more sensitive indicator of a take on the dropper. The hooks are wide gape Tiemco #2488, when I can find them.

The advantage of the BWO is that it was more often the fly taken, either because it looked like an emergent midge or there were actually BWO's hatching, which was frequently the case. The midge pattern used most of the time was a size #22 Zebra midge tied on a wet fly hook to assure that it would sink. An even better one was a midge pupa tied entirely with a silver thread obtained from a fabric store, and a wing case tied with a bunch of CDC tied at both ends to form a small loop. These setups were most effective during and immediately after the transition from tricos to midges. Later in the day the better dropper fly was a #20 or 22 scud (fresh water shrimp) tied on a curved hook. The naturals are most abundant in Cacoosing Creek (where there are very few other macro-invertebrates) and presumably most effective

downstream from its junction with the Tully.

From time to time when I see fish up in the column but no evidence of whatever they are feeding on, I will use both my own design Damsel Fly and/or a Crane Fly larva imitation. The Damsel Fly larva (PHOTO) is tied entirely with several olive marabou barbs tied in an extended body arrangement on a heavy curved hook. The extended body is tied over braided nylon which has been tied in well to the hook, then stretched from another vise the wraps begin over the string and eventually over the short hook. The body of marabou herl is tied in by the tips around the tying thread and wrapped up over the nylon core then forward onto the hook to where the wing case will be tied. At that point, I tie in a heavier bunch of a darker grey marabou, then continue the marabou noodle to near the hook eye where I tie off the thorax and tie down the looped wing case at the front. This has been a moderately effective fly downstream from Reber's Bridge where there has been a huge population of Damsel Fly adults and an even larger larva population.

I tie the Crane Fly larva, one to one and a half inches long, for mid summer. The often heavier spring (May and June) population consists of small adults and probably emerges from considerably smaller nymphs. I have not seen the larvae of the spring insects, but I'm hedging my bets for next year with a size 14 or smaller offering. All the larvae I have seen in my travels are dirty white to light tan. This gives you the option of starting with pure white or cream dubbing and letting them get dirty with use or adding the "dirt" at the tying bench right off the bat. I tie mine with a simple tapered body on heavy curved hooks using cream dubbing mixed with a trace of olive and grey. No other parts are needed because the natural larva usually has its head retracted into the body.

These relatively unusual flies have all increased my fishing successes over the past couple of years, especially when I was unable to see the cause of the less-than-active feeding - the so-called dead times. I suggest that you tie several of each this winter and then give them a reasonable shot at improving yours.



Photos by Rick Bell

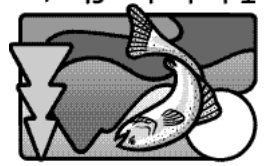
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*Laurel Run Creek project before showing severely eroded banks.*



*Laurel Run Creek project after reggrading, bank armoring and planting.*



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