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The Newsletter of Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited #042

Hatches & Rises



March/April 2011

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CABIN FEVER is coming to Cranberry!!!

Don't miss one of this area's largest fishing shows!

CABIN FEVER 2011

Sunday, March 6, 2011

(9 am to 4 pm)

Four Points Sheraton (North)

910 Sheraton Drive / Mars, PA 16046 (PA Turnpike / I-79)



GUEST SPEAKERS:

Greg Hoover, *PSU Entomologist*

Rob Reeder, *Central PA Limestone Guide*

Dave Sewak, *PATU Marcellus Shale Field Organizer*

Bill Engle, *LL Bean Fly Fishing Instructor*

OTHER EVENTS:

***Exhibitors** include tackle dealers, rod builders, fly tiers, guides

***Hands-on fly casting/fly tying activities** for kids

***Bucket raffles** for fly rods, fishing gear & more

***Flea Market** for used fishing gear & equipment

***Adults - \$7.00 *Kids under 12 - Free**



CABIN FEVER Needs You!!! Volunteers Needed: Call Peter Ten Eyck (412) 576-5221

Membership Mend *By Rob Walters*



Fishing checklist for 2011

- Be the first in line at **Cabin Fever** to get first dibs on all the sweet gear.
- Contact your fishing buddies to plan the big fishing trip.
- Check your fly line for cracks.
- Finish tying those patterns you have been dreading (size 18 BWO parachutes come to mind).
- Check the trout stocking schedules (take time to volunteer for the PWWTU stockings).
- Find your lucky fishing hat (or buy a new one, 2010 stunk!).
- Start scouting a stream or hatch you have always wanted to fish.
- Waders? Yes, they were leaking on your last trip.
- Make sure your Trout Unlimited Membership has not lapsed.
- Think of who you are going to ask to join *Penn's Woods West* this year...

...asking someone to join Penn's Woods West TU should be a part of your fishing checklists each year.

It's easy, Trout Unlimited (TU) national has a **Special Introductory Membership** offer of **\$17.50** to new members and \$15.00 goes directly to our chapter. Have them sign up using this link www.tu.org/intro and select **042-Penns Woods West** as their chapter of choice.



President's Beat *by Walter Reineman*

While I am writing this, it is raining like there is no tomorrow and just two weeks ago I was using my new snow blower. The forecast is calling for a high of 52 today and then down to 25 for the weekend. This is not fun. Which is why we are getting ready for Cabin Fever on **Sunday, March 6th** at the Four Points Sheraton in Cranberry.

We have had a great response from our Vendors, both old and new, with plenty of donations for the door prizes and raffles. There is an impressive speaker list featuring renowned PSU Entomologist **Greg Hoover**, Central PA limestone guide **Rob Reeder**, LL Bean instructor **Bill Engle** and PA TU Marcellus Shale Field Coordinator **Dave Sewak**. Of course, we will again appreciate the help of Family Tyes and their Youth Education program. This is the best local opportunity to see what is going on in the world of our sport.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Cabin Fever Market Alert!!! *By Joe Kline*

One of the most popular and crowded Cabin Fever venues is **PWWTU's Flea Market** where you can place your unwanted or unused fishing gear for sale. Things like rods, reels, books, fly boxes, vests, fly tying tools and materials – in short, everything serviceable that you no longer have a use for.

Here's how it works: Bring your **fishing items to the Flea Market during the show hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. At the show**, fill out the **Flea Market Registration Form** with your name, the merchandise you are selling, your asking price and whether that price is negotiable.

The Chapter will keep 10% of the sales price. Unsold items can be retrieved from the Flea Market at any time, but must be picked up at the show closing time of 4:00 pm. If not reclaimed by the closing time, they will become property of PWWTU. All transactions are between buyers and sellers. PWWTU only provides the venue for the market and the service of registration to benefit sellers. All items are offered in "AS IS" condition. Sellers hereby release PWWTU and any individual member or officer from any claims for damage or other loss. Sellers also agree to donate 10% of proceeds from items sold to PWWTU. *For more information, call Mac Seaholm at 412-922-8646.*

Three PWWTU “Hall of Famers” By Christian Shane

If our chapter had a Hall of Fame just as the *National Football League* and *Major League Baseball*, three recent officers would be inducted into it for their service to PWWTU - **Joe Kline, Chuck Meyers** and **Bill Hayes**. In honor of their service to the chapter, the Board and Officers plan to give them copies of Roger Latham’s book. (*Roger Latham was an outdoor writer and also a former member of Penn’s Woods West Trout Unlimited*)

Joe Kline, former Membership Chair

Years as member: **25+** Duties/positions/responsibilities: **Membership, Secretary, Publicity, Fly Sale**
Favorite fly: **Parachute Adams** Favorite fly to tie: **Parachute Adams**
Places to fish: **Spruce Creek** Advice: **Keep Calm & Carry On**



Chuck Meyers, former Treasurer

Years as member: **20+** Duties/positions/responsibilities: **Treasurer**
Favorite fly: **Royal Wulff** Favorite fly to tie: **Green Weenie**
Places to fish: **Slate Run** Advice: **Get Involved**



Bill Hayes, former Vice President

Years as member: **15+** Duties/positions/responsibilities: **Vice President**
Favorite fly: **Royal Coachman** Favorite fly to tie: **Royal Coachman**
Places to fish: **Two Mile, Sheffield, PA** Advice: **Respect the stream & the fish**

Joe, Chuck & Bill, our chapter thanks you for your dedication, efforts and friendships created along the PWWTU years!



PWWTU’s “Free” Fly Fishing Seminar in March By Bob Bukk

The annual **Penn’s Woods West Trout Unlimited Free Fly Fishing Seminar** will be held on **Saturday, March 19, 2011** at the St. Bede Activity Center, 509 South Dallas Avenue in Point Breeze from **9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

Members of PWWTU will be on hand to share their knowledge of fly fishing basics with beginners, or experienced anglers interested in brushing up on their skills.

Topics will include selecting and assembling a fly outfit, basic knots, lines and leaders, equipment selection, flies, and more.

Individual casting lessons will be conducted on the lawn (weather permitting), or in the gymnasium. Fly outfits will be available for casting class, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own equipment.

The seminar is opened to both members and non-members. Children and adults (women and men) are welcome.

Lunch and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Bob Bukk at (412) 521-0714.

The St. Bede Activities Center is located at 509 South Dallas Avenue in the Point Breeze/Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh. There is free on street parking!



From the Tip of the Quill: “Fishin’ Trucks” By Charles Cantella

My truck, *Karma*, turned over on the first crank this morning. That’s a good sign because Karma, like me, sometimes finds it hard to get going on cold winter mornings. Mornings when a reasonable person would stay inside and do more important things instead of fishing, but because we’re addicted to this thing called fishing and because we haven’t stepped into a stream for months, we’re willing to brave the hostile conditions and occasionally the hostile spouse just because we have to get out.

Prospects of catching much today are slim. The hatchery trucks won’t be out again until the month before the season opens, and the hold-overs are tight lipped and holding tight to structure while the snow melt filled stream rushes by overhead. An analyst would succinctly tell you that more water with less trout means less chance of success. They’d go on to tell you the opposite corollary as well: more trout, less water equal a better chance of success. They’d draw the conclusion that you’d be better off waiting until the end of April or into May to go fishing, but they can’t guarantee anything and past performance is no guarantee of future results. But gosh darn it, it’s been a long winter and you want to go fishing today! So you bundle up and head out the door, logic be damned!

Those were the conditions under which I found myself last March as I bounced down the road toward the river. Now that Karma and I are closing in on 200,000 miles together, the reasonable part of my mind is telling me that I need to start thinking about getting a new truck. But the emotional side disagrees. I don’t know if I was feeling strictly sentimental, or perhaps still suffering the effects of a late night out with the boys the night before, but I started reminiscing about all the years I’d shared with Karma. Car or truck, years must be similar to dog years. I mean Karma is about ten years old, yet they way people look at her, you’d think she was 70. I imagine they think to themselves oh, that poor truck, look at the way she’s limping along the highway, and why doesn’t her owner even wash her? Trucks, like dogs, just seem to be more full of life during their first few years. They get great mileage (well, as good as trucks get), the ride is smooth (or as smooth as a truck ride gets) and they can both still turn a girl’s head. After a few years both the dog’s and the truck’s intake, be it gas or food, increases, while the mileage and ride drop off. Trips to the vet and to the

garage increase. The girls walk by now and don’t even bat an eye. Soon all three of you: you, your dog and your truck would rather sit around and do nothing than bother to get up and do anything.



And that’s why we do get up and go out on those miserable mornings when all the odds are against it. We do it because the honey-do list will always be there, but we won’t always have the strength or ability to stand in a river trying to catch fish that we plan on releasing anyway. We do it because life is meant to be lived, not viewed on TV, no matter how nice they make it look. Nothing lasts forever, and there’s no guarantee about tomorrow, so we make the most of what we’ve got today.

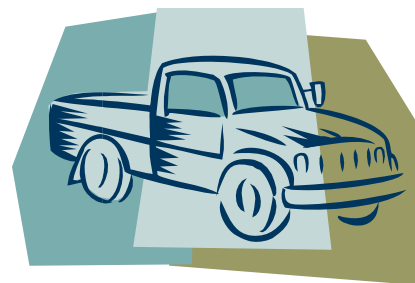
“...it’s been a long winter and you want to go fishing today!”

And it was with this mindset that I pulled into the riverside parking lot. I felt inspired to live life to the fullest. To grab every experience I can before the opportunity slips away.

I pulled on my waders, strung up my rod, grabbed my wool hat and reached into the cab for my vest. Nothing. I peered inside. No vest. Are you kidding me? No vest means no flies. I went around to the passenger side to see if maybe the vest had slid under the chair. As I leaned in, I bumped my head on the visor, and it flipped down and *ALLELUIA!* There dropped from under the visor a little fly box!

A gift from the gods? *Maybe.* Or maybe a gift from Karma, a gift from an old friend trying to convince me to squeeze one more season out of her.

I bet that none of the new trucks would have even thought to stash an extra fly box under the visor, in case I’d forgotten mine. It takes a lot of time to get a fishin’ truck to where you are both know what the other is thinking. You just can’t buy that kind of relationship straight off the lot.



TU Ties: Woodchuck “Hawg” Nymph By Christian Shane



With **Punxsutawney Phil** missing his shadow last month, we're hoping that he forecasted some early spring fishing. In preparation for the upcoming fishing season, “Phil” your fly box with this simple nymph pattern made entirely from woodchuck hair.

The Groundhog (*also referred to as the woodchuck, chuck, gopher or marmot*) is the largest member of the squirrel family. One would think many PA fly fishermen would incorporate woodchuck hair into their ties, but surprisingly it's not very popular.

Woodchuck furs have many variations in size and color along with guard hair and under fur, making it a versatile fly tying material. The long hairs can be used for tails, while the under fur creates a multicolored dubbing material.

On this year's **Groundhog's Day**, I wanted to surprise my student fly tying class (*NA's Tying Tigers*) by using the actual hairs of a woodchuck in a nymph pattern. As I was searching for a less complex recipe for beginners, I found it difficult to find one that included groundhog hair as a major component.

So in experimenting with this pattern/recipe, I utilized all aspects of the groundhog fur to create a very simplistic nymph. We brainstormed names for it, and my students decided on the name - “*The Hawg*” after the groundhog. I hope you try out this buggy-looking, groundhog nymph...I'm sure the fish will *gopher* it!

RECIPE for the WOODCHUCK “HAWG” NYMPH

Hook: Standard Nymph Hook, Sizes #12-18

Thread: Dark Tan, Camel or Black

Tail: Long Woodchuck hairs

Body: Woodchuck guard hairs golden dubbing

Thorax: Woodchuck guard hairs black dubbing

Optional: Gold wire ribbing / Tungsten Bead head



(Photo by Christian Shane)

- 1) *Trim a swatch of woodchuck fur and separate the long hairs from the guard hairs by grasping the ends of the long hairs and gently pulling the lighter guard hairs away from them. Put guard hairs aside.*
- 2) *Stack the longer hairs in a deer hair stacker to create an even tail, tie in as a tail over the hook bend. (same length as the shank)*
- 3) *Divide the guard hairs from light and dark by cutting them in half into two separate piles. You may cut them up further into smaller pieces with scissors or use an old coffee grinder to create a finer dubbing of golden blonde and black. (Use a dubbing loop if you are keeping them intact as hairs)*
- 4) *Dub and wrap the lighter hairs as the main body from the tail to 2/3 of the way up the shank. (Use a dubbing loop to make a tighter body)*
- 5) *Dub and wrap the darker hairs as the thorax - make the thorax wider than the body by dubbing and wrapping more material.*
- 6) *Tie off and whip finish. Add head cement if you prefer.*



NOTE: *For added variety, use a tungsten, silver or gold bead head in front of the fly to weight it down and gold wire to wrap as a rib for segmentation around the body.*



The Dusty Bookshelf Book Review:

The Longest Silence - A Life in Fishing By Thomas McGuane

Review by Jim Hoey



Right out of the gate, this is a notable little book. The author is a most-talented storyteller. As such, he belongs to a select group of enchanters who are able to draw the reader into the magic they create.

A few others manage to write about the sport in interesting and even on occasion, meaningful ways. McGuane, however, does this consistently with less of a commitment to the rhetorical sentence.

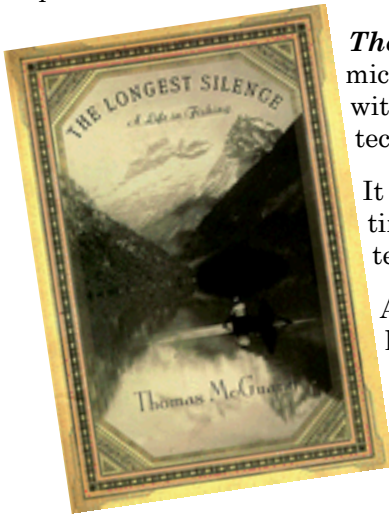
The Longest Silence is a far-reaching collection of essays, covering the author's experiences with fly fishing and how his perceptions of the natural world, history, people, mortality and the universe have been defined by his involvement with the sport.

McGuane's piece on Izzak Walton is peer-and polished as the bottom of a riffle. The *Compleat Angler* owes its centuries-long keep returning to it during periods when, worth, "The world is too much with us." times - of wars, civil and religious strife, take leave of its senses.

"An undisturbed river is as perfect a thing as we will ever know..."

less, with words that are as faceted author feels that Walton's book, "*The* popularity to the fact that people to quote the poet William Words-Walton's book is a refuge during these revolutions - when the world seems to

McGuane states that "*The Compleat Angler*" is not so much a book about how to fish, but "how to be." He describes what he calls Walton's "everyday miracles," such as "friends, a dry, warm house, remembered verse, hope."



The Longest Silence is, perhaps, not for the angler who refuses to travel without his micrometer, but a few chapters, such as the one titled, "Unfounded Opinions," deal with some of the sport's more mechanical aspects and should please the habitual technologist.

It is a book with a little magic between its covers - one about special places and times and friends. Most of all, it's about seeing creation through a lens made of water.

As McGuane states, "An undisturbed river is as perfect a thing as we will ever know, every refractive slide of cold water a glimpse of eternity."

The Longest Silence is published by Vintage Books and currently is in print.

PWWTU Meetings & Greetings

Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited meets the **second Monday** of each month September through May at **Brentwood VFW Post 810**, 3801 Clairton Blvd., 3.5 miles south of the Liberty Tubes, on the corner of Rt. 51 and Marlea Street (near McGinnis Sisters). **Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.** All are welcome to attend.

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March/April Meetings By Peter Ten Eyck

March 14th - Bob & Linda Steiner



We are delighted to have notable outdoor photographers **Bob and Linda Steiner** as our guest speakers in March. You may recall that we had invited the Steiners to speak last February, but we had to cancel that chapter meeting because of the "Great Blizzard of 2010" that pretty much shut down Pittsburgh.

Are you often disappointed with the photos that you take on your fishing trips and days afield?

Linda and Bob's presentation will explain the use of the digital camera and the key elements to consider when taking photos outdoors. The Steiners are members of the Pennsylvania Outdoors Writers Association, have contributed to *PA Angler and Boater magazine*, *PA Game news*, *PA Trout*, and they are the winners of many professional photo awards.

April 11th - Member Adventures Night!

Our April meeting will feature several of our very own *PWWTU* chapter members speaking about their exciting fishing adventures! As many of you know, **George Altemus** has fly fished all over the world. George is going to make a presentation about his most recent trip to the **Seychelles**, an island chain off of **Northwest Africa**, where he fished for monster bonefish and exotic species, one of which broke his 12 weight rod!

Earl Morgan is going to show us his outstanding photos and speak about his fly fishing exploits on many of the famous streams of Big Sky country in **Montana**.

Christian Shane and **Peter Ten Eyck** are teaming up and making a presentation about their trip last summer to fish for Sockeye salmon and big rainbows on the **Kenai Peninsula** in **Alaska**.

This meeting is going to be a lot of fun.

See you there!



(Photos by C. Shane)



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(Pictured Below) "SCHOOL OF FISH" - The Trout in the Classroom project at McKnight Elementary is running smoothly as our brook trout continue to grow. The Second Graders of Mr. Shane's class are responsible for feeding the trout daily and changing the tank water every other day. Our projected release date will be in late March or early April.

Penn's Woods Pics *By Christian Shane*



The brook trout, now two inches and growing, have begun to display their orange-tinted fins and vermicular dorsal patterns.

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