



H&R is "Going Green" as of January 2012 (Details on Page 3)

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

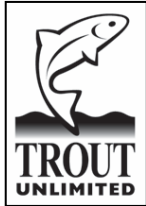
Hatches & Rises



September/October 2011

www.pwwtu.org

Volume 15 Number IV



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Changes in our Chapter By Bob Bukk, Vice President

While *PWWTU* members were off practicing their catch and release skills this summer, the Board of Directors met to develop ways of making Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited an even better chapter...



New technology upgrade

In an effort to bring the Chapter up to speed from a technological standpoint, the purchase of two new laptop computers, a multimedia projector, and financial software for the Treasurer was approved.

Many of you who attend the monthly membership meetings do not realize that the laptop and video equipment used by the guest speakers is the personal property of one of our members. Also, the Editor currently uses his own PC to create the newsletter. The Treasurer will improve management of the financials of the chapter by using a more robust software package.



Hatches & Rises is Going Online

Following the lead of PATU and many TU chapters across the country, the Board has decided that *Hatches & Rises* will go online beginning with the **January/February 2012 "Online Magazine" edition**. Printing and mailing the newsletter is the biggest cost for the chapter. By implementing this upgrade, not only will we save needed funds, but *H&R* will be available online, along with back issues.

You will now be able to read it on your laptop, PC, PDA, smart phone or MP3 player. New flip book technology will permit you to open the magazine and turn pages with a mouse click – just like your paper copy. Photos will be in color! And if you prefer, you can still print a hardcopy! (*See Page 3 for more details*)



*("Changes in our Chapter"
Continued on Page 2...)*

Changes in our Chapter (...continued) *By Bob Bukk*

Goodbye, Stew Stringer.

It was with regret that our Treasurer, Stew Stringer, submitted his resignation as he and his wife are embarking on a new adventure in Maryland. We certainly will miss Stew's expertise and value as a member of *PWWTU* and hope that he will visit us when he returns to the area to fish.

Hello, Ken Crawford.

Prior to his departure, Stew arranged to nominate Ken Crawford as the new Chapter Treasurer. Ken and Stew have orchestrated a seamless transition regarding the important position of Treasurer. We welcome Ken to the Board.

Chuck Meyers and Rich Yurko Elected to the Board

In May, former Treasurer Chuck Meyers and long-time member Rich Yurko were elected to the Board. Chuck continues his stellar services to the Chapter, serving as an advisor to Ken and the Board. Rich Yurko is a fixture at *PWWTU* and Pittsburgh Fly Fishers. We welcome his wise counsel to the Board.

Help Wanted with Two Committees!

There are two important events on the horizon for 2012 that are going to require some help from the membership to be successful: Cabin Fever 2012 and the 50th Anniversary of *PWWTU*.

The date for **Cabin Fever 2012** is set for **Sunday, March 4th** at the **Four Points Sheraton**. The volunteer participation at the event is just great, but help is needed with planning. Please consider volunteering for the **Cabin Fever Planning Committee** to make it an even bigger success.

Next year is also a huge milestone for *PWWTU*. It is the **50th Anniversary of the Chapter!** To celebrate, we are hoping to hold a banquet. For this to happen, we are also going to need involvement from our chapter members.

If you or a friend is interested in serving as either a member of the **Cabin Fever 2012 Planning Committee** or the **50th Anniversary Banquet Committee**, please contact any of the Chapter Officers.

Phone numbers are listed on the front page or stop by and volunteer in person at an upcoming membership meeting.



Thanks for your involvement with the chapter's upcoming events!

Volunteer for the Pine Creek Work Day!

Saturday, September 10th from 8:00 am to Noon

This year's Pine Creek work project includes adding more deflectors to Pine Creek and will be on **Saturday, September 10th from 8 am to Noon.**

The worksite is on **Bryant Road in Hampton Township**. From Route 8 turn onto Duncan Avenue and proceed through the 4-way stop and past the Driving Range. Bryant Road is on the Right.

All Volunteers will get a raffle ticket for a beautiful 8 foot 5 weight graphite fly rod crafted and donated again by **Greg Caldwell** of *PWWTU*.

Coffee and donuts at 7:30 am and a hot lunch is at Noon. Bring your waders, boots, and work gloves.

For more information, call **Tom Walsh, Pine Creek Chairman, (412) 486-5356.**

The Newsletter is Moving to an Online Magazine Format

By Christian Shane, H&R Editor

Did you know that our chapter newsletter, *Hatches & Rises*, has been in print for over 20 years?

Did you also know that to print and deliver *H&R* to our 1,000+ members is more than a \$5,000 expense to our chapter? That's right, every bi-monthly issue costs around \$850 to send to members.

In addition, our current newsletter format uses over 4,000 sheets of paper (8 1/2" x 14") to print for each issue; that's over 20,000 large pieces of paper per year!

Therefore, over the summer, our Board and *PWWTU* Officers discussed the option of adapting our newsletter from a print medium to an electronic format available online. They found that it will offer a substantial amount of funds to be used more directly in our other worthwhile chapter projects as well as reduce the amount of paper the chapter utilizes. The decision was made to cease the printing and shipping of the bi-monthly newsletter and provide an online version to more effectively communicate with our members.

Beginning in **January of 2012**, members can continually access *Hatches & Rises* online at www.pwwtu.org. This allows our chapter to not only save a lot of money for future projects, but enables *PWWTU* to add even more to the newsletter to include color pictures, videos and interactive feedback.

The newsletter will no longer be mailed to members as of January 2012, but can still be accessed online. Limited quantities will be made available at our membership meetings for those who do not have internet access.

Currently, our newsletters are already archived and available online to our members who can frequently visit the website, where they can print as many copies of *H&R* as needed. We're even adding a flipbook format to allow for ease of viewing the newsletter like an actual magazine and zooming in-and-out for easy reading.

So mark your calendars for the **January/February issue** when *Hatches & Rises* will "Go Green" and begin a new journey as an Online Magazine. Visit the website www.pwwtu.org and on the home page click on "Current Newsletter" for *H&R*.

As of January 2012, the H&R will no longer be mailed to members - it can be accessed online at www.pwwtu.org

Membership Mend By Rob Walters

I hope everyone had a great summer, and you are getting ready for the start of the steelhead season - it's right around the corner. I have a few numbers to share with all of you...

1,205 – Is the current number of members in *PWWTU*. I am checking into it, but this might be all time high for our chapter.

407 – Is the number of people who need to renew their membership before the end of the year.

726 – The number of current *PWWTU* members who have created an online account at www.tu.org.

Why is it important to **create an online** account at www.tu.org?

Because, starting January 2012, we are no longer going to be mailing out *Hatches & Rises*, it will be on our website only. *PWWTU* will be sending out **monthly e-mails** that will have up to date information and a reminder that the latest *Hatches & Rises* is now online. The only way we will have your e-mail address is if you visit www.tu.org and create an account. Have your membership number handy and go to the website, it takes 5 minutes. If you can't find your membership number or have questions, please feel free to contact me, Rob Walters (412) 715-8461 or rob@ventureoutdoors.org.



2011/2012 Holiday Rod Raffle Tickets Available

Win a custom built fly rod...PWWTU is offering a small stream **Brook Trout fly rod** in a **6'5" ft, 3-weight, 3-piece model**, including a nylon-covered hard tube case. This rod is built on a medium-fast action olive green graphite blank with gold wraps over smoked chrome guides. It is also inscribed with "PA Council of Trout Unlimited" and the PATU logo is embroidered on the case. **Tickets are 1 for \$3.00 or 6 for \$10.00.** These tickets may be cut out and reproduced for multiple entries or purchased at our membership meetings from October through January. The drawing will take place at the **January meeting; winner need not be present.**

PENN'S WOODS 2011/2012 HOLIDAY RAFFLE

PATU Brookie Fly Rod 6'5" ft, 3 wt, 3 piece

1 Ticket—\$3.00 6 Tickets—\$10.00
(Please print clearly or use labels)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ / _____ / _____

Make check payable to P.W.W.T.U.

Send tickets and check to:

P.O. Box 90137 / Pittsburgh, PA 15224



PENN'S WOODS 2011/2012 HOLIDAY RAFFLE

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Teachers of Trout *By Christian Shane*

In June, educators from across the state met at Fisherman's Paradise in Bellefonte, PA for the annual Trout in the Classroom training.

In the morning, time was spent getting to understand the tank set-up and learning more about the native brook trout which they will be raising in their classroom. The afternoon provided time on Spring Creek to learn about aquatic insects and how the tank mimics a stream.

Our chapter had two teachers in attendance: Christian Shane, Second Grade teacher from McKnight Elementary (North Allegheny) and our newest participant, Dennis Holderbaum, an 11th Grade Biology teacher from Academy Charter School (Pittsburgh). PWWTU is sponsoring these two schools during the 2011-2012 school year to enable them to participate in the program.

In November, their classrooms will receive over 300 brook trout eggs to place within their classroom tanks. Their students will observe the trout growing from eggs to alevins to fry to fingerlings.

Mr. Shane and his class will discuss the trout life cycle and compare it to many other animal life cycles as well as the importance of cold, clean water for trout. Mr. Holderbaum plans to teach his students about the nitrogen cycle and freshwater ecosystems and may use the TIC project to discuss chemistry and pH. Both teachers plan to have a cooperating pen pal project between their schools. They both will also involve their students in releasing the brook trout later on in the spring.

Look for more details in the next issue of *Hatches & Rises*.

Visit www.patrountotheclassroom.org for more details on the TU project.

Support the Trout in the Classroom Program...

Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU) is once again offering the opportunity to win some outstanding prizes in the Trout in the Classroom Raffle. Support one of the most important programs that PATU and PWWTU have undertaken for our youth. Donations are **\$5.00 for one ticket** or **\$20.00 for five tickets**.

- 1st Prize – Wyatt Dietrich Custom Built 7'2" 5wt. Bamboo Fly Rod with Leather Case*
- 2nd Prize – Framed Ned Smith "Greenbrier Grouse" Conservation Edition Print*
- 3rd Prize – Charbroil 4-Burner 40,000 BTU Stainless Steel Grill*
- 4th Prize – \$200.00 Cash Card for a Store of Your Choice*

Please support our Trout in the Classroom programs by purchasing these raffle tickets. The winning tickets will not be drawn until the PA Council of Trout Unlimited fall membership meeting in October. Winner(s) need not be present.

For additional information, call **Christian Shane**, *H&R Editor & TIC Coordinator*, for details **(412) 916-2979**.

Tickets will be on sale at September's PWWTU meeting only!



From the Tip of the Quill: “Meat Flies” *By Charles Cantella*

Back when I was still young and just cutting my teeth on this fly-fishing thing and Isaac Walton’s name meant as much to me as Walter Hunt’s (he’s the inventor of the safety pin, which coincidentally, I’ve used in a pinch as a hook before). Needless to say the finer, more genteel qualities of the sport were lost on my friend Ralph and me. We just wanted to catch fish. One of us must have come across a fly-fishing article extolling the virtues of fooling trout on hand tied flies. So we figured we’d give it a try. Plus, if it meant we didn’t have to dig for worms under the chicken coop where the chicken feces enriched the soil and grew the biggest, fattest worms around, so much the better.

Since neither of us had waders, or even boots for that matter, we waited until the warmer days of late May before our maiden attempt at fly fishing. We tied up some creations and pedaled as fast as we could to the local stream. Our gear consisted of a basic spinning rod, a tiny bobber and split shot with a fly attached to the end. There was no fly line, no leader, no fine diameter tippet here, no sir. This was spin fishing with a fly. But it was as close to fly fishing as either of us had ever gotten before.

We slowly waded out until the water was at about our knee level. Any deeper and the bottoms of our shorts would get wet. As it was we were unpleasantly surprised to find out just how cold a trout stream is in May. Having won the coin toss earlier I got to make the first cast. Since we only had one rod between us, each of us would get five casts, before switching, unless a fish was caught at which point the rod would switch hands and the other person would get to make his five casts. It was pretty democratic for eighth graders if I do say so myself.

Opening the bail, I cast the rod as if I’d had a heavier lure, like a spinner, attached. The fly went maybe three feet in front of me. I tried again with similar results. It wasn’t until my fifth cast that I got the whole idea of swinging the fly and split shot like a pendulum before casting. I tried to convince Ralph that I deserved just one more cast since I had wasted all my other ones working on technique. Ralph insisted that a deal’s a deal and if I didn’t turn the rod over to him, he’d tell my mom about the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue that I had under my mattress. Jeez, there are some secrets that a guy should just keep to himself.

Ralph took his position, and after learning from my mistakes, lobbed the fly out about twenty-five feet, into the faster current. We watched the bobber float down stream and then curl off to the eddies alongside the main current. Amazingly, the bobber jerked and Ralph jerked back and he was solidly into a trout. It was my first lesson about how effective it can be to fish the eddies. He reeled it in as

fast as he could. There was no playing of the fish, no enjoying the fight. This was basic, get ‘em in as quick as possible, fishing. Ralph grabbed his fish, proud as a peacock! His first trout on a fly! I’d guess it was about a foot long. He was beaming like a lighthouse. But we didn’t have a camera to record the moment, and we didn’t have a stringer to keep it for dinner. So with mixed emotions, Ralph let him go.

“Nice fish,” came a voice from behind us. We turned to see a guy who was obviously a “real” fly fisherman. He had the long rod, the waders, the vest and the whole list of accouterments we’d seen in the fly-fishing magazines.

“Thanks” replied Ralph.

“What did you get him on?”

At this, Ralph beamed again, “A fly. One I tied myself.” Ralph held up his rod so his fly, a piece of red pipe cleaner tied to a hook, waved in front of the man. The man cupped his hand around it to take a closer look. Ralph was positively exploding with pride.

The man gave a half smile, let the fly go and crushed Ralph with his snide remark, “I don’t fish meat flies.” Ralph’s smile faded and his eyes narrowed. “Really? What do you fish?”

The man held up his rig as if he were showing us the Holy Grail. “A pale morning dun and I’ve got a hare’s ear nymph on the dropper.”

“They look pretty meaty to me.” Sneered Ralph.

“Oh no, they’re insects. They’re not meat.”

By now Ralph, who must have paid much more attention in science class than I ever did, retorted “Listen buddy, you got two choices: you got flora or you got fauna. Those sure ain’t flora!”

Ralph and the man glared at each other for what seemed like an hour, but couldn’t have been more than a minute. Finally Ralph said, “Get outta here, Mr. Meaty.” The man mumbled some comment about the sad state of kids today and started wading downstream.

Ralph and I went on to get six more trout out of that hole, holding each one up and calling down to be sure Mr. Meaty saw them.

That was over thirty years ago, Ralph is now living in Oregon near the Hood River and has invited me over to fish for salmon and steelhead several times. I just haven’t made it out there yet. Maybe this will be the summer I go. Or maybe I can meet him in Montana to hit the stone fly hatch. Now those would be some meaty flies.



Thanks to our H&R Sponsors



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Meetings & Speakers By Peter Ten Eyck

September 12th - Samantha Kutskel and Paige Silice

We are delighted to have two representatives from our **PA Council of Trout Unlimited** joining us at our September chapter meeting. **Samantha Kutskel, Coldwater Resource Specialist**, will speak about the current activities of the Coldwater Heritage Partnership such as stream reparation and stream monitoring for Marcellus Shale impact.

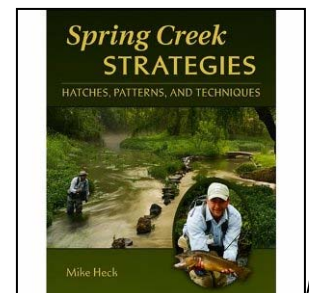
Paige Silice is an **Education Outreach Coordinator** for the state council and she will discuss current efforts to expand and improve the Trout in the Classroom program.



October 10th - Mike Heck

Spring creeks such as the Letort, Big Springs and Falling Springs offer some of the finest and most challenging fly fishing in Pennsylvania. To learn more about these legendary streams and how to fish them, be sure and attend Mike Heck's presentation at the October meeting.

Mike Heck is the author of "**Spring Creek Strategies**" and has had articles published in *Fly Fisherman*, *American Angler* and *Fish and Fly* magazines. According to Lefty Kreh, "Mike Heck is a master of spring creek fishing as well as a fine fly tier. If you fish these sometimes difficult waters, read this book and you'll almost certainly catch more fish." After his presentation, Mike will conduct a book signing and offer some of his flies for sale.



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.

Hatches & Rises is published 5 times yearly: Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Sep/Oct, & Nov/Dec by Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited to enhance communication among members & share information with the public. H&R is supported by tax-deductible underwriting, reader donations and the group's general fund. Views, opinions and advice contained herein do not necessarily reflect the position of PWWTU or its Board of Directors.



HATCHES & RISES
Penn's Woods West
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The newsletter is moving to an Online publication format as of January 2012...For more on the change, please see Page 3

Fly Patterns Needed

Over the coming months when you sit at your vise to tie flies for late season fishing, steel heading or for next year, consider tying up a few extra half dozen patterns for our **Great Fly Sale in January 2012**.

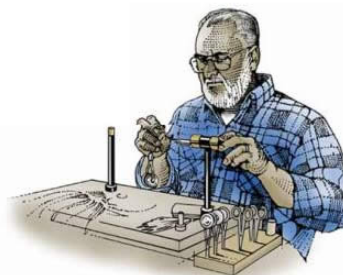
You choose the patterns and sizes; then turn in your fly contributions at any general meeting from now through December. The chapter will package and label them for the sale.

It's not too early to now begin tying flies for this popular and profitable chapter event. Tie a few more flies up in honor of Joe Kline!

If you can't attend a meeting, please contact **Christian Shane (412) 916-2979** for shipping instructions.



Thank you for your time, talents, and donations to our yearly fund raiser!



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