

Susquehanna Ripples



Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

August 2013

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susquehannatu.wordpress.com



Kayak Fishing to be Demonstrated at September Meeting

The next Chapter meeting will be Wednesday September 11 at 5:30 pm at the Montoursville Boat Launch (at the foot of Mill Street, next to the old Green bridge on Broad Street). The topic will be Kayak fishing and there will be a demonstration on the use of kayaks and some will be available for use. We will also be having casting demonstrations and instruction (both fly and spinning) and fishing in the Susquehanna River.

We will also be having a picnic and hope that you can all attend this great event. Please bring a dish to share. It will be a time for everyone to get together and share memories of the summer and to make new ones. Please mark your calendars now and plan on attending this great event.



Trout Run Park Rededication

On Saturday August 24, 2013, there will be a rededication of Trout Run Park (off Old Rt 15 now Lycoming Creek Road extension. Just south of Trout Run Village about 1 mile) from 11 am - 4 pm. The Park is a beautiful property and this event will re-introduce the public to the park and its recent improvements. The Park offers great opportunities to experience nature; the path and fishing platform make Lycoming Creek easily accessible for fishing; the driveway and trails are great for walking, the creek side land has great habitat for bird watching, and the new playground entertains children.

The Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited will have an informational booth at this event and will be conducting casting demonstrations on the stream and showing off the fishing platform. If you can help out in any way, please contact Dave Craig.

Food will be available, Live Music from Sean Farley and Friends, the States Wood mobile, fly casting demos by the local Trout Unlimited guys, and some local government officials will be on hand. We hope to see you there!

Mike Ditchfield (member of the Lewis Township Planning Commission, Lycoming Creek Watershed Association, Trout Unlimited, and the Lycoming Creek Angler's Club) contributed to this article.

Collecting Data Within the Watershed

The Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association has been collecting data since the early 1970's. For the past two years, Dr. Jonathon Niles and interns from Susquehanna University have been collecting data of water quality, and fish and macroinvertebrate populations. They have been working on two separate projects: a study of the rate of recovery of aquatic ecosystems in our headwater streams after Tropical Storm Lee, and collecting information on un-assessed streams which are small tributaries that have not been sampled by the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

This year there have been two teams of five interns plus Dr. Niles collecting data. During the two weeks of June 10 -21, two teams completed collecting data on the 30 streams which are the focus of the flood-recovery project. They also collected data on 52 previously un-assessed streams in our watershed. Some of the streams are tributaries of tributaries and are unnamed.

The biggest brook trout found in the 52 un-assessed waters was 12.5 inches. The greatest number of trout was 219 fish in 100 meters of stream! There are four other tributaries between this small tributary and the main stem. These small tributaries are in a section of the State Forest for which DCNR does not hold the sub surface gas rights, which makes the forest surrounding these streams vulnerable to development.

Dr. Niles and the interns also worked on 20 streams in the Pleasant Stream watershed in the Lycoming Creek. Eleven of the 20 tributaries of Pleasant Stream had wild trout populations. They were back in the watershed collecting data the week of July 9.

The LCWA would like to thank the land owners who allowed Dr. Niles and the interns to cross their

land to access the un-assessed tributaries.

This article was taken from the July Loyalsock Creek Watershed Newsletter and want to thank everyone in that organization for the work they are doing. GREAT JOB!!!



Recipe of the Month

Onion Sour Cream Potato Chip Crusted Bluegill Recipe

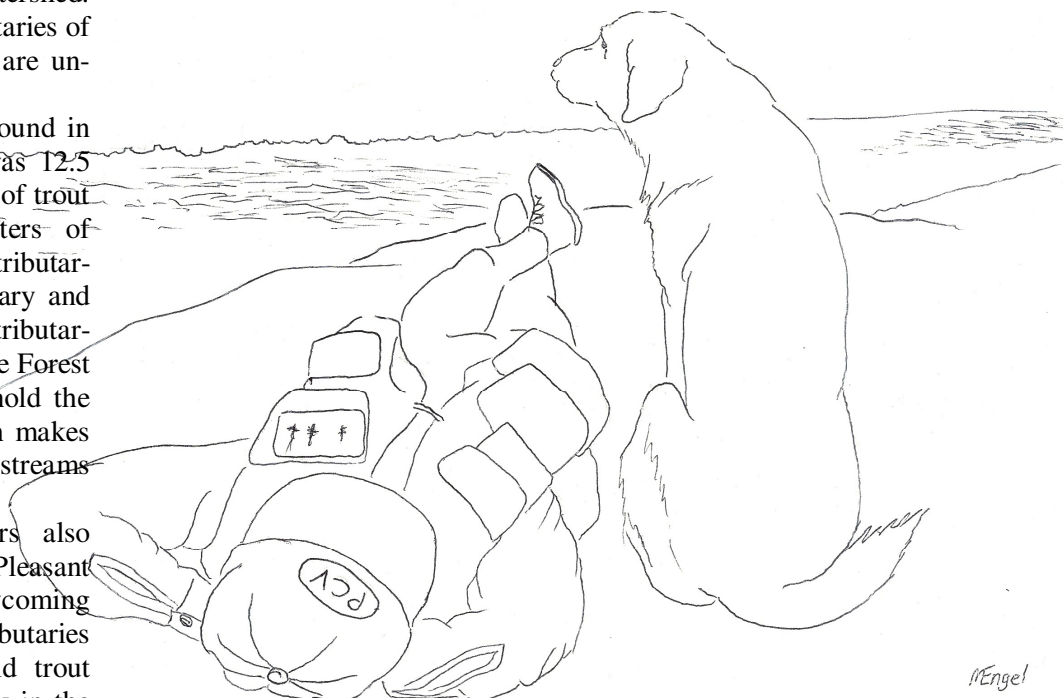
Bluegill fillets about 2 lbs
1 cup flour
1 egg
2 cups Onion Sour Cream Potato Chips (crushed coarsely)

Remove skin from the Bluegill fillets and rinse with cold water. Remove bones from the fillets. Dry the fillets with paper towels. Place potato chips in a plastic bag and crush (not too fine, coarse is best). Spread the crushed potato chip crumbs from the bag onto a plate. Put flour into the same plastic bag. Beat the eggs in a shallow bowl. Put the Bluegill pieces into the plastic bag with the flour and shake to coat. Dip Bluegill pieces into the beaten egg and then press firmly into potato chip crumbs to adhere. Coat both sides.

Place coated pieces in a greased baking dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until the filets flake. Serves four.

www.LakeMichiganAngler.com

Please send us your favorite recipe. It does not have to be a fish related recipe but one that you like.



There is a lot of fishing opportunities left for 2013. Hope that you have been having a safe and fun filled summer and have had the opportunity to do a lot of fishing (or relaxing along streamside). Please send in your photo's or stories of your fishing adventures so that we can share them with others.

Didymo Found in the Pine Creek Watershed

After confirming the presence of the invasive aquatic algae known as didymo, or “rock snot,” in Pine Creek, Lycoming County, anglers and boaters are reminded that cleaning their gear is the easiest, most effective means of preventing its spread to other waters.

“Our biologists have not seen any evidence of a full bloom of didymo in the creek or nearby waterways,” Department of Environmental Protection Acting Secretary Chris Abruzzo said. “This algae does not present a public health risk, but there is an ecological concern in terms of its future potential impact on the health of the waterway.”

In late June, DEP biologists were conducting routine stream monitoring in Pine Creek upstream of Waterville in the vicinity of the Hamilton Bottom Canoe Access Area, a popular recreational destination. Laboratory analysis of a sample collected using an algal net detected the presence of didymo in the form of microscopic diatoms, a finding confirmed by the National Academy of Sciences.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) continued to urge anglers and boaters to take steps to prevent the spread of the algae.

“We may not be able to eliminate didymo from an infected waterway, but there are easy steps we can take to slow its spread and to prevent it from spreading to other waters,” said PFBC Executive Director John Arway.

“Didymo cells can easily be carried downstream and can be picked up by any items which come in contact with the infected water, including fishing tackle, waders, and boats and trailers. We urge anglers and boaters to ‘Clean Your Gear!’ before leaving a water body and entering another one.”

The discovery of the algae in a popular recreational area potentially increases the risk of its movement to

other waters in Pennsylvania.

“Flowing through the heart of Tiadaghton State Forest, Pine Creek and its parallel trail are increasingly popular with anglers, boaters, hikers and other Pennsylvania residents and visitors,” said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Ellen Ferretti.

“The discovery of didymo has no immediate impact to the visitor experience on or along Pine Creek, but we ask all to remain vigilant in an effort to protect this invaluable waterway and other streams and rivers,” Ferretti said.

Prior to detecting didymo in Pine Creek, the alga was found in the Youghiogheny River watershed in Fayette County, in the West Branch and main stem of the Delaware River, and in Dyberry Creek in Wayne County.

The PFBC recommends that anglers allow exposed equipment to completely dry before entering new waters. After equipment is dry to the touch, allow it to dry another 48 hours, the commission suggests. Thick and dense material, such as life jackets and felt-soled wading gear, will hold moisture longer, take longer to dry, and can be more difficult to clean.

Soaking equipment in hot water containing dishwashing detergent (two cups of detergent for every two and a half gallons of water) for 20 minutes or more also will kill didymo and some other aquatic invasive species.

Cleaning boats and equipment with hot water (maintained at 140 degrees Fahrenheit) by pressure washing or soaking is another effective method. If hot water is not available, a commercial hot water car wash also makes a good location to wash boats, motors and trailers. At the other end of the temperature range, freezing items solid for at least 24 hours is effective. If cleaning, drying or freezing is not practical, please restrict the equipment’s use to a single waterway.

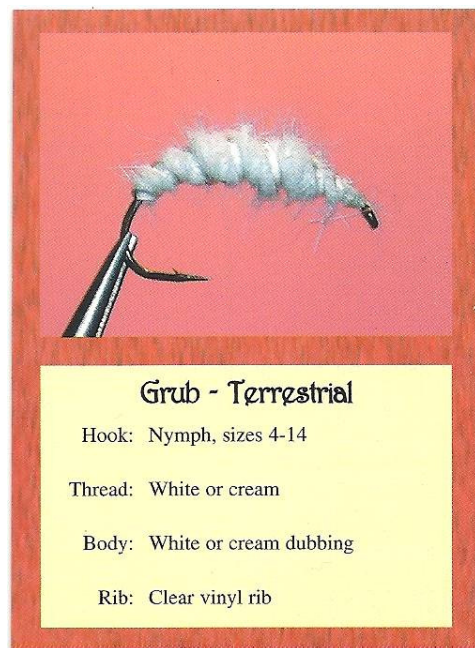
Didymo is not a public health

hazard, but it can cause ecological damage by smothering other organisms which also live on the riverbed and support the food web for the resident fish community.

The algae, whose scientific name is “*Didymosphenia geminata*,” has colloquially been called “rock snot” because of its appearance. When squeezed nearly dry, the algae, generally tan to beige in color, actually has the feel of moist cotton or wool. For more details on how to stop the spread of didymo, visit http://www.fishandboat.com/water/habitat/ans/didymo/faq_didymo.htm.

For more information on how to clean your gear, visit <http://fishandboat.com/cleanyourgear.htm>.

Above information obtained from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission



Grub - Terrestrial

Hook: Nymph, sizes 4-14

Thread: White or cream

Body: White or cream dubbing

Rib: Clear vinyl rib

Fly Pattern Trading Cards by Toppin' the Waders Trading
www.flyshack.com

Largemouth Bass

Inches	Weight
12	0.8
13	1.1
14	1.4
15	1.7
16	2.1
17	2.6
18	3.1
19	3.7
20	4.3
21	5.1
22	5.9
23	6.8
24	7.9
25	9.0
26	10.2
27	11.6

Smallmouth Bass

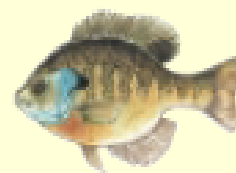
Inches	Weight
12	0.8
13	1.1
14	1.3
15	1.7
16	2.0
17	2.4
18	2.9
19	3.5
20	4.1
21	4.7
22	5.5
23	6.3
24	7.2
25	8.2

These estimators were taken from the PFBC website. Use this information to estimate the weight of your catch after measuring a fish's length. This information was compiled from statewide lists of surveyed waterways, so predicted weights are statewide averages. All weights are estimates in pounds.

Cut out or photocopy this page and place it in your tackle box or fishing vest.

For more lengths and weights, please visit the fish species pages on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission website.

Black crappie		White crappie
Inches	Weight	Weight
4.5	0.1	0.1
5	0.1	0.1
5.5	0.1	0.1
6	0.1	0.1
6.5	0.1	0.1
7	0.2	0.1
7.5	0.2	0.2
8	0.3	0.2
8.5	0.3	0.3
9	0.4	0.3
9.5	0.5	0.4
10	0.5	0.4
10.5	0.6	0.5
11	0.7	0.6
11.5	0.9	0.7
12	1.0	0.8
12.5	1.1	0.9
13	1.3	1.1
13.5	1.5	1.2
14	1.7	1.4
14.5	1.9	1.5
15	2.1	1.7
15.5	2.4	1.9
16	2.6	2.1
16.5	2.9	2.4
17	3.2	2.6



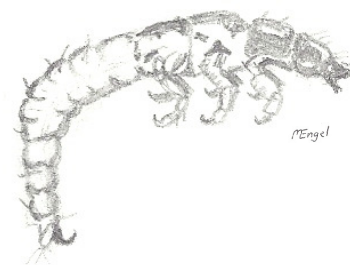
Bluegill

Inches	Weight
4	0.1
4.5	0.1
5	0.1
5.5	0.1
6	0.1
6.5	0.1
7	0.2
7.5	0.2
8	0.3
8.5	0.4
9	0.5
9.5	0.6
10	0.7
10.5	0.8
11	1.0
11.5	1.1
12	1.3
12.5	1.5
13	1.7



Yellow Perch

Inches	Weight
4.5	0.1
5	0.1
5.5	0.1
6	0.1
6.5	0.1
7	0.1
7.5	0.2
8	0.2
8.5	0.2
9	0.3
9.5	0.4
10	0.4
10.5	0.5
11	0.6
11.5	0.7
12	0.8
12.5	0.9
13	1.0
13.5	1.1
14	1.3
14.5	1.4
15	1.6





The Leave No Trace concept is over 40 years old and was formally conceived of by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in the 1960's. However, as public land use expanded and land managers witnessed the biophysical effects of this use, the Forest Service along with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management developed early wilderness ethics practices.

By the mid-1980's, the Forest Service had a formal "No-Trace" program emphasizing the cultivation of new wilderness ethics and sustainable no-trace travel and camping practices. The keys to this principal are:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- *Know the local fishing and boating regulations for the area where you'll fish. Obtain licenses and stamps and have them with you.

- *Use a personal floatation device where required and/or appropriate.

- *Learn to identify the different species of fish in the area where you'll be fishing.

- *Obey the limits on size and quantity of fish you are allowed to keep. Abide by regulations concerning types of bait and tackle permitted where you are fishing.

- *Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.

- *Plan your trip to avoid times of high use.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- *Durable surfaces include rock, gravel, water, established trails and campsites, sand or snow.

- *Concentrate use on existing trails, campsites and boat launches.

- *Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

- *Avoid trampling aquatic vegetation when wading. Refrain from wading in spawning areas when possible.

- *Enter and leave water sources at places where the banks are low or where there are gravel bars.

- *Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- *Pack it in. Pack it out. Inspect your area for trash and pack out all monofilament fishing line, leftover live bait, and bait cups.

- *Avoid using lead sinkers and jigs. If lead sinkers are found, pack out for proper disposal.

- *Use established bathrooms where available. If not available, deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep and 200 feet away from water sources.

- *Pack out entrails when possible. If not possible, burial, deep water deposition or moving water is acceptable options in most areas.

Leave What You Find

- *When practicing "catch and release", use barbless hooks and be sure to not injure the fish. Do not fight a fish to exhaustion, use a rod and line of sufficient strength, and avoid suspending fish out of water by the fishing line. Keep fish in water when handling for release and do not touch gills.

- *Carry and use needle-nose pliers or hemostats for hook removal.

- *Take care not to introduce non-native species to water sources and surrounding areas. Pack out all unused bait and dispose of properly (e.g. worms, minnows, leeches) and properly wash all equipment between fishing trips.

- *Avoid transferring fish from one watershed to another.

Respect Wildlife

- *Respect fish by humanely dispatching catches you are keeping with a quick blow to the back of the head with a rock or other solid object.

- *Refrigerate or eat fish quickly to avoid wasting them.

- *Never feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.

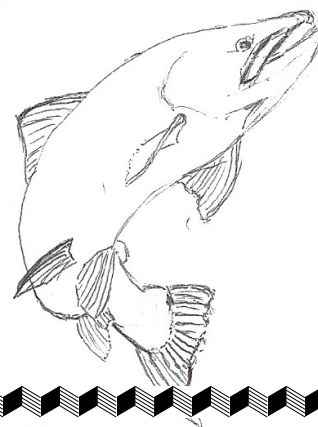
Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- *Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

- *Non-motorized crafts usually have right-of-way over powerboats: slower boats should keep to the right.

- *If using a radio keep volume low or wear headphones, let nature's sounds prevail.

The information in this article was taken from Leave No trace website. For more information and materials, please call or visit Leave No Trace at 1.800.332.4100 or www.lnt.org.



We Want Your old fishing equipment and accessories

Please consider donating your fishing equipment and accessories that you no longer use or want to the Chapter. A receipt will be given to you showing your donation and fair market value of the items so that you can use your donations toward your taxes.

We will recycle the items by using them in our programs, donating them to others who may need them, or selling them to raise funds for the chapter. Please contact Joe Radley at (570) 326-1851 or Bob Baker at 3 2 1 - 7 8 0 6 o r rlbaker@earthlink.net to arrange for pickup or items can be brought to any meeting or event of the Chapter. We want to thank the members who have donated items so far.



Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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The Mission of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to work to conserve, protect and restore Central Pennsylvania's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds

Upcoming Events

August 24, 2013

Trout Run Park Re Dedictaton. The Chapter will have an informational table and will be giving on stream casting demonstrations and show the fishing platform. The event will be 11 am-4pm

Wednesday September 11, 2013

Chapter meeting at the Montoursville Boat Launch at 5:30 pm. Bring a dish for picnic to share, kayak fishing demonstrations and fishing on the Susquehanna River

Wednesday October 9, 2013

Chapter Meeting - TU Eastern Brook Trout Restoration Program

Wednesday November 19, 2013

Chapter Meeting

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Don Cline Jr.
Timothy Driscoll
Glen Francis
Todd Hodgson
Jim Latini
Miranda Ludwig
John Schrader
Robert Schrimp III

Our current membership stands at 240 members!!!

Chapter meetings

Held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are open to the public and begin at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church of Williamsport in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted), 102 East 3rd Street, Williamsport. Parking is in the rear of the Church along Mulberry Street.

No meetings are held in May, June, July, August or December