

STREAMSIDE HAPPENINGS

The Newsletter of the Perkiomen Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Winter 2007



PVTU Cabin Fever Speaker Series Returns!



With real Winter temperatures finally upon us (and perhaps, by the time you read this, our first snowfall of the year on the ground) the thought of spring thaw and fishing may be causing you to wish winter were gone now. To help with this yearly bout of “cabin fever,” we are pleased to announce our 2007 lineup of speakers for our monthly membership meetings. As in past years, we are privileged to be able to offer programs which are both educational and entertaining relative to stream conservation and fishing topics.

Our programs begin on **Monday, February 19**. This event will feature **Crystal Gilchrist**, Executive Director of the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. Crystal will update Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited about the PWC's conservation projects that are underway or in the planning process. Consisting of mostly riparian buffer restorations, the sites and conservation needs of each project vary and present unique challenges for staff & volunteers alike. Crystal will also provide a brief overview of the PWC's environmental education program and upcoming special events.

Collector, fly fisherman and author **Jerry Girard** will be our guest speaker at our meeting on **Monday, March 19**. Jerry is well known in the fly fishing community for his love of collecting antique and historically significant items related to the sport. Jerry has authored several articles for the *Art of Angling Journal*, perhaps most notably, one discussing Philadelphia's own Thaddeus Norris. He has a passion for cane fly rods and has provided consultation on this subject for the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in New York. Aside from his love of fly fishing memorabilia, Jerry is the Founder and Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Fly Fishers. Jerry's enthusiasm and knowledge surrounding the history and art of fly fishing are sure to make this presentation one you won't want to miss! Note: If you have any old or historic tackle/memorabilia, feel free to bring it to the meeting for a free appraisal by Jerry.

Our 2007 speaker series will conclude on **Monday, April 16**, with a presentation by **Gerry Waterfield** on the ecology of the Schuylkill River system. Many of you likely know Gerry from seeing him manning the fishing department at French Creek Outfitters. In addition to his role at FCO, Gerry is also a published scientist and has served in a variety of positions ranging from college professor to research biologist in relation to his passion for studying aquatic ecosystems. As our watershed is but one part of the larger Schuylkill River system, Gerry's presentation will no doubt be of immense value in helping us see how our work on the Perkiomen fits into the big picture of the watershed.

As in previous years, refreshments will be served and fantastic door prizes offered at each meeting. The officers and board of PVTU look forward to seeing you on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Upper Perkiomen Valley Library for these evenings of fellowship, education, and recreation!

Work Days Planned for March and April

Mark your calendars now to get out where the rubber hits the road on our project areas! PVTU will continue its tradition of putting action alongside education in 2007 with our first two work days of the new year. The focus of both days will be to maintain and improve watershed. Our first work day will be held on Saturday, March 17. The focus of this work day will be maintenance of the buffer fences along the main branch of the creek. Shovels, rakes, and weedwackers are all welcome as we will be clearing debris to allow the trees to thrive. For both work days, we will meet Saturday morning at 9:00 AM at Hereford Park on Tollgate Road just outside of Palm and move out from this point to our various work sites.



our project areas in the upper Perkiomen watershed on Saturday, March 17. The focus of this work day will be maintenance of the many young trees we have planted in the buffer zones along the creek. Shovels, rakes, and weedwackers are all welcome as we will be clearing debris to allow the trees to thrive. For both work days, we will meet Saturday morning at 9:00 AM at Hereford Park on Tollgate Road just outside of Palm and move out from this point to our various work sites.



From the President's Desk . . .

Over the past few years I have served in leadership roles with PA Trout (Pennsylvania's state level Trout Unlimited organization). As a result, I wasn't as deeply involved in Chapter business as I was from 1989 until 1998 when I held leadership roles within PVTU. However, as PVTU's newly elected President I will be returning to a local focus to lead the chapter for at least the next year. During my time working with the state council I served as an officer and member of several different committees doing what I believe to be important work in the cause of coldwater conservation. With our chapter facing a period of change I felt it important to have some continuity with our chapter's past to help move it forward in its journey, so I volunteered to lead the chapter for this year.

Heading into 2007 our board and officers are a mix of new faces and TU veterans. We welcome Mike Lindenmuth as our incoming Vice President and Tai Chang and Barry Edwards as new board members. Recruiting new faces for our board is important to bring in fresh ideas and new energy. As the group responsible for shaping the actions and character of our chapter, our board has a great impact on the present and future of PVTU. Having said that there are a few important decisions the board will have to make right away concerning projects for this year and next.

For instance, in March and April I'd like to canvas landowners along the West Branch about opening more water up for public fishing. The only way to accomplish this is to talk to the landowners personally. For this effort we may need up to 20 volunteers. In addition, I will be visiting another landowner on the West Branch because he wants to move a fence and put in a small parking area for fishermen. We may even be able to get this project completed this year!

Further, we'll be laying the groundwork this year for a project on public land on the Hosensack that will hopefully take place next year. As many of you know, the Hosensack is a wild brown trout stream, but it does have thermal issues that keep the population of wild trout low. Did you know that shad once used the Hosensack as a spawning stream?

With several dams along the Perkiomen being removed it has given us motivation to continue efforts to have a couple of dams removed in the upper drainage. This is a long process and we have to be patient. All in all I've seen much progress in our effort to improve water quality on the Upper Perkiomen Drainage. My goal for this year is to improve the momentum of our efforts, and to build a strong chapter so that the next president can move in and have an easy turnover.

Chaz Macdonald

2007 Election Results

For our chapter to thrive, it needs strong leadership. Maintaining a balance of veterans and new leaders with fresh ideas is a key component of satisfying this need. In light of that, PVTU is privileged to have a slate of officers and board members for 2007 that includes representatives of both categories. For 2007, veterans TU'ers Chaz Macdonald (President), Mike Fries (Treasurer), and Dave Herold (Secretary) will hold officers roles. In addition, the chapter welcomes Mike Lindenmuth to his first leadership role in PVTU as our new Vice-President. On the board, Scott Repa, Virginia Fitzpatrick, Jack Steel, Charles Jack, and Steve Scott will be returning to continue their work in support of the chapter's mission. To further strengthen this group, the board is please to welcome Tai Chang and Barry Edwards as "freshman" board members.

As your chapter leaders, the officers and board make it their mission to help steer the chapter in pursuit of TU's conservation goals and the needs of PVTU's membership. The input and assistance of each chapter member is vital in supporting them as they work toward these aims. Please feel free to offer you suggestions or ideas to any of these individuals as they begin their work in 2007.

**Partners of the Perkiomen
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The logo for French Creek Hunting & Fishing Outfitters is enclosed in a double-lined rectangular border. The words "FRENCH CREEK" are written in a large, white, outlined, serif font at the top. Below this, the words "HUNTING & FISHING" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, flanked by two white arrows pointing outwards. At the bottom, the word "OUTFITTERS" is written in a large, white, outlined, sans-serif font.

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Did You Know?

A Word About Joining TU or Renewing Your TU Membership

TU's national organization offers a rebate program for our chapter if members join or renew and designate chapter #332 as their chapter. Chapter-acquired members renew at a higher rate than other members and are more likely to become active members-attending chapter meetings, coming to workdays and even serving as chapter officers. To encourage us to recruit new members, TU national will return the entire first year's dues as a rebate-\$15 directly to our chapter—and award us an end-of-year rebate of \$2.50/member. The guidelines for the Rebate and Membership system is as follows:

- Chapters and councils can offer a year's TU membership for special rate of \$17.50 for new members only (cannot be used by previously expired or archived members).
- **New members can join by mail:**
 - Use applications printed by TU National or those available at our website (www.perkiomenvalleytu.org).
 - Make sure that you have printed or written our chapter number (332) in the appropriate box.
- **New members can join on the web:**
 - Go to www.tu.org/intro
 - When prompted to enter a code enter our chapter number (332).



**Perkiomen Valley
Trout Unlimited**

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Support those who support us!

PVTU is proud to list the following businesses as sponsors for the year 2007:

- **French Creek Outfitters**
- **Cabela's**
- **LL Bean**
- **Zern's Country Sportsman**

Without their support much of our chapter's work would not be possible! We would like to thank each for their generous contributions.

Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited Calendar of Events — Spring 2007

February

February 19, 2007
Membership Meeting

Crystal Gilchrist
Perkiomen Watershed
Association
6:30—7:30 Business Meeting
7:30 — Program begins

February 25, 2007
Bally Fisherman's Flea Market
Bally Fire House
Bally, PA
8:00 AM — 2:00 PM

March

March 3, 2007
Schuykill Watershed Congress
MCCC West Campus
For info visit:
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

March 17, 2007
Saturday
Chapter Work Day
Meet at Tollgate Park
9:00 AM

March 19, 2007
Membership Meeting
Jerry Girard

Classic Fly Tackle
6:30—7:30 Business Meeting
7:30 — Program begins

April

April 16, 2007
Membership Meeting

Gerry Waterfield
Schuykill River Ecology
6:30—7:30 Business Meeting
7:30 — Program begins

April 21, 2007
Saturday
Earth Day
Chapter Work Day

All Monday night chapter meetings will be held at 7:30 PM at the UPV Library in Red Hill, PA. Business meeting for Board precedes general membership meeting at 6:30 PM. Parking is available at the rear of the building. All chapter sponsored workdays, and programs are open to the public. For more information on any chapter event please contact the chapter via mail or e-mail at the addresses listed above.