



*Meetings on third Thursday of the Month*

# Rain Doesn't Stop Outing

This is, for most of us, the season opener. It's our first real chance of the season to enjoy the outdoors and loosen up our casting arms. This feeling was expressed by Steve Larson in the following Email:

Steve wrote:

*"For me, Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> marked the 8<sup>th</sup> Learn to fish Day I have attended. One year I attended as a student and the last seven as a cook. The meal hasn't changed, except for the addition of hot chili which was welcomed by all. The one thing that has is the attendance. When I first attended we had 30 in attendance between Staff and stu-*

*dents. This year we had over 70 mouths to feed. The weather was better than some*

*and Wet Fly technique. By 3 o'clock the kitchen was packed, the students were trained, and the hardest of the masses went streamside working on their new found knowledge.*



*Steve Larson keeps the grill going in spite of rain at Resica Falls*

*years. We had showers in the morning but the sun appeared in the afternoon. Sam and his staff keep the students on schedule while demonstrating Knots, Casting, Dry, Nymph*

*This club can be proud of what they accomplished on that Saturday. Of the seventy people attending over twenty were volunteering to work the day in some capacity to help the event flow smoothly. There are many volunteers to list and if I tried I'm afraid I would miss one, so I will just end with a "Thank You for your help". This was the best run Fish Day I can remember."*

## New Club Officers Elected

The club has elected a new slate of officers for the coming two seasons. They are eager to continue to support our great tradition of being one of the Philadelphia areas oldest sports clubs. The slate is headed by **Frank Howard** as President, followed by **Mike Ebner** as Vice President, with **Jim Costello** as Treasurer and **Al Kotake**, as Recording Secretary. Our thanks go out to the officers who are vacating these positions, namely, Steve Birkenmaier as President, Gil Learn as Vice President, Frank Howard as Treasurer. Al Kotake is returning as Recording Secretary. Also a special note of "thanks" goes to Jim Costello for maintaining our library and to Mike Ebner for maintaining the website. Also- thanks to Ed Emery, Sam Vigorita and Dave Shillington for their classes and Steve Larson for feeding us so well and Ed Emery for taking our money (raffles).

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**Special points of interest:**

- Think terrestrials in summer--trout love ants and beetles (inchworms, too.)
- PFBC reports that it has increased the size of stocked fish by 30%
- Next meeting on Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> Rod Rohrbach is our guest
- There are no club meeting in July and August

## Stream Report—Neshaminy Creek (Bucks County)

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The Neshaminy Creek crosses PA 332 just below the dam in Tyler State Park. It's not the kind of stream that you would take your long-lost cousin from Idaho to, but it does have some aesthetic appeal because of its location within the park. At this time of year it flows at a pretty high rate and because of its slippery rocky stream bottom, it requires some effort to wade it successfully. There is some car parking on either side of the creek so access is very good. Because the water is still high, it's hard to say what it holds for hatches, so it makes sense to drag a wholly bugger through its currents.

There are no special regs on the Neshaminy and the access is very good; so it's very much a hatchery-truck controlled environment. I wasn't fishing at the time (early afternoon on April 17) but I did get to spend about a hour walking the banks, talking to fishermen and observing how they were doing. Between the dam and the bridge on Rt332 I saw only four fishermen; two fly guys and two spin fishermen. No one seemed to

be doing very well but on the first really warm day of the year; no one seemed to mind. After checking the Fish and Game Commission website I found that the next stocking date is slated for April 22, so they were fishing near the end of the last stocking cycle.



As all fishermen know; the time to go fishing is *whenever you can*. As one who has fished across the width and breadth of this great country, I'd like to add that you should also fish *wherever you can*. Think back to the days of your youth when with a piece of string and a cane stick were all you needed to catch a five-inch sunfish and get the rush of your life.

The Neshaminy is within a 10 minute ride from where I've been asked to support some special equipment tests. Just knowing that there's a trout stream nearby makes the assignment seem a little less arduous. Maybe I'll throw the fly rod in the van and go in a few minutes early someday.

**(Ed note:** As a follow up to my initial visit to the Neshaminy Creek; I returned to fish it after the April 22 stocking date. I'll have to back off from my earlier favorable impression of the creek. I saw a few other fishermen near the dam and no one was doing very well. I worked the water very hard and wasn't able to move a trout anywhere along this stretch of water. After spending about 2.5 hours fishing and observing, the only thing I saw resembling a trout was about nine inches long and was hanging on the end of a stringer— all by itself! I think we can write this one off!!!

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## Rod Rohrbach to speak at June Meeting

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For those who fish the Little Lehigh, Rod is a familiar face. He runs the Little Lehigh Fly Shop, which sits right on the banks of the river, for which it is named. Also, for those who know these waters well will tell you, the Little Lehigh can be the Jeckel-Hyde of trout

streams—meaning that it can run either hot or cold. It can be a thirty trout wonder or totally humbling experience.

It was within 20 feet of the shop that I handed my wife my fly rod, after being totally dejected buy an

afternoon of no trout, that she proceeded to hook (and land) the biggest trout (about 24") that I've ever seen caught in this great piece of water!!

Don't miss the chance to hear directly from the "riverkeeper" himself and plan your attack.

## A Fish Story—*The Triple Crown by Steve Larson*

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### The Triple Crown

Tales of the one that got away or how the river was hopping before we got there has always been what we bring back from the club week-end at the Delaware; You hear that someone had one on that had to be 24 inches, when we all know that if you didn't land it you will never know the true size. Well this year's trip was truly a year for big fish. Many a member pulled in fish from 16 to 20 inches, I saw a few and heard about more.

The conditions on the Delaware were tough. It had rained all week prior to our arrival and on Friday afternoon a shower had even made the east side of the West Branch at Dam down to Deposit turn brown. Hale Eddy down was light brown all the way to Handcock. Saturday was mostly sunny and Sunday scattered rain in the morning. The water was high and fast from the reservoir spilling over the top and the State releasing from the bottom. The Discharge was charted as 1000 cfs on Thursday, rising to 2200 cfs by Saturday and slowly dropping through 1900 on Sunday. Flies

were hatching in Stilesville and all the way down the River. During the day and into the evening you had March Brown size 12 to 14, Caddis and sulfurs in various size and colors and Green Drakes size 8 to 12 hatching. I even heard Grey Fox were seen. Some of the hatches were thick and others sporadic. The wild card occurred in the large bait fish from the reservoir that washed into the river from the spill over and were tempting the largest of fish.

Now you understand the conditions, fast, high discolored water, weather conditions changing, plenty of food and constantly changing winds; in other words normal fishing on the Delaware. This leads to the story of my how I accomplished two Delaware River firsts for me. This weekend in less than 20 minutes time I was able to catch my first double on this river and got the triple crown of a Brown trout, a Brooke trout and a Rainbow. Having beaten the water with various flies, both wet and dry I decided to stop fishing the deep run along the bank where I was and throw into

the shallows which were at the center of the stretch. To my surprise when stripping line I see a fish rise to the top attached to my tandem nymph. When I reeled in I had not one but two fish hooked, a brown and brookie. I unhooked them and returned them to the current. After inspecting the flies I began to cast into the area again and within five casts hooked a rainbow on the upper fly. A smile appeared on my face, not because I landed three fish in less than 15 minutes, not because of the double or the triple crown, not even because I had done these three things on the Delaware, no I smiled because I had just proved my friend and our president Steve B. wrong about the Delaware is dead and when the large fish we are catching now are gone these is nothing to take their place. How did I do this you ask, well it seems that when you add the combined length of the three fish I caught I would have a hard time getting much more than 12 inches out of them. I guess there is still hope for the Delaware you just have to know where to look.

-Steve Larson

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## Colburn Trip report—A Good Time ! (Mr. Rattlesnake Excluded)

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Some of the club members participated in a fishing trip to Colburn, PA—staying at *The Feathered Hook B&B* and fishing the local streams which included *Penns Creek, Spring Creek, and Bald Eagle Creek*. This was a four day trip which was timed to coincide with the emergence of the classical fly hatches including *Green Drakes, Grey Foxes, Sulphurs, and Craneflies*. The accommodations were excellent with a great variety of foods and desserts. Our old friend,

Don Douple stopped by, as well, and all of those attending reported catching fish. Of special note was when Will Parkinson caught his first trout on a dry fly—an event that brings back fond memories to us all.

Under the category of “not such a pleasant experience” was Gil Learn's brief encounter with a Pennsylvania rattlesnake (*Cortalus Sistrusus*). Fortunately, for wading fishermen, our local water snakes are all non-

poisonous (**Ed Note:** so they say—whenever I can I'll still stay clear just to be safe).





## What's wrong with this picture? No crowds...

Maybe it's the economy, or the fuel prices, or the number of fish is down—or maybe fly fishing has regained its rightful place as quiet sport with those precious moments of quiet and solitude—whatever the reason—I'll take it!

It's hard to put your finger on the exact reason that there seems to be a slight decline in the number of other fishermen that you see but it's a pleasant change, none-the-less. I don't know if it's real or if it will last but there seems to be more room to back cast these days.

Many years ago you would get the opening day crowds and then you had the streams to yourself for the rest of the summer. As time went on and the sport grew in popularity, so did the demand on the best fishing holes. Places that used to be your "secret" spot in the dog days of summer would invariably have a fisherman standing in the exact

place that you considered "yours alone". Sadly, the guy that beat you to your "honey-hole" probably didn't take his time when he approached, so even if he leaves, the



*Yellow Breeches Creek on  
Memorial Day Weekend*

fish are probably put down for the next hour or so.

Whether this is real or perceived it's one of those changes in life that can be a little disconcerting. It's possible that the PFBC's decision to stock fewer but larger fish has

knocked out a few guys who only care only about the number of fish they can say that they've caught.

Regardless of the cause, it makes sense to enjoy it whenever you can.

Take advantage of its positive effects of having a slightly quieter environment in which to enjoy your sport. If you slow down your own approach and concentrate on constraining your false-casts, you may be rewarded with one of those bigger fish that the Commission says it has stocked.

If the "decline" that I've talked about is real, one of the innocent victims of a down-turn will be some of the local shops. Whenever you can, you should try to patronize these places. They try to provide more than just merchandise—they want to make sure your fishing experience is the best that it can be.

-Editor

## Steve Wascher presented "Bug" flies Demo

This tying demo was something of a departure from our usual menu of relatively small trout flies, but it helped fill the knowledge void of tying larger flies and helped to expand our techniques and expand our horizons. It was refreshing to learn how to effectively spin deer

hair bodies—a skill that applies to trout flies, as well. Attendees were taken with the quality of his flies and his effective use of bright colors and use of pronounce eyes on his patterns. Add his methods to your bag-of-tricks.



## Back Casts—remember the automatic reel? (cont)

(Continued from page 6)

the push of a button- what could be better? Well, there were many problems that never really got fixed. First, they used giant negator springs that you had to wind up from time-to-time. Because you had to pull line off the reel there had to be a clutch mechanism, as well. So you would wind up the spring and hope that the clutch didn't let go at the wrong time. Occasionally, the cover would pop off and the giant spring would fly all over the place - leaving you with the arduous task of trying to get some 25 feet of steel

spring back into the housing. (**Ed note:** *it is rumored that someone actually accomplished this at one time but that has never been confirmed*).

The other problem was the danger of being flogged with your own fly line. The thought of having 90 ft. of fly line whizzing toward you at near supersonic speed is very disconcerting (**Ed note:** *of course that's assuming that you can cast that much line - another phenomena that's been reported but never really witnessed*).

Was there any real advantages to

these monstrosities? Well, my dad was mostly a worm fisherman but he always used a fly rod with an automatic reel - the combo weighing in at about the weight of a small child. He fished mostly for small brookies in northern Maine. He claimed that with such an outfit he could set the hook, pull in the fish, and clean the fish, all with the push of just one button- now that's what I would call efficiency!

-Editor

## Brodhead Outing draws members and friends



*Lunch break for some hearty fly fishers*

There was a good turnout for our “Opening Day” outing at the Brodhead Creek in Northeastern PA. This event has become an annual tradition for many years. As you can see, many of the members make the drive to the Strausburg area in honor of this tradition. However, as you can tell by the photo, the “eating” tradition must be strictly adhered to, as well. For the 2009 event the turnout was good and the weather was reasonably comfortable, for this time of year. We haven't heard any “fish stories” from those who attended but everyone is welcome to attend next year and make up their own.

## Refreshments Served at Each Meeting

Refreshments are being provided at each meeting by Kathleen McKenzie and Jerry Usatch who have volunteered to continue this most-appreciated service to member and their guests. A special word of “thanks” to Kurt Griffin for providing this service over the past few years.

It's a pleasant break to have a cup of java, a donut and share the-one-that-got-away stories with our guest speakers and old friends.

Thanks, again for these refreshments and we'll try our best to keep the area *reasonably* clean!





## MAIN LINE FLY-TYERS

Greater Plymouth Community Center  
2910 Jolly Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Club Officers:  
President: Frank Howard  
Vice Pres.: Mike Ebner  
Treasurer: Jim Costello  
Newsletter: Dwaine Glidden  
Secretary: Al Kotake  
Librarian: Jim Costello  
Website: Mike Ebner

submit newsletter items and suggestions to:  
dglidden43@verizon.net

We're on the Web  
[www.mainlineflytyers.net](http://www.mainlineflytyers.net)

## Driving Directions:

### From Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276)

Take Exit 333 (Norristown - old exit 25). At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Plymouth Road. At the light, turn right onto Germantown Pike West. Continue approximately one (1) mile, through four (4) traffic lights (not counting the left hand turn light at Sandy Hill Road). At the fifth light, turn right onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

### From Blue Route (I-476)

Take exit for Germantown Pike West (Exit 20). Continue on Germantown Pike west for approximately one (1) mile, through five (5) traffic lights (not counting the left hand turn light at Sandy Hill Road). At the fifth light, turn right onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

### From Route 202

Follow Route 202 to Germantown Pike. Travel EAST on Germantown Pike, through five (5) traffic lights. At the next traffic light, approximately half a mile, turn left onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

*Meetings held on third  
Thursday of the month  
starting at 7PM*

## Back Casts—Remember the Automatic Fly Reel?



When is the last time you fished with an automatic fly reel on your fancy graphite rod? Never? Well, your not alone. If you could even find one these days, no self-respecting fly fisherman would ever use one in public - but why not? Hold on - before you answer; if you're less than fifty years old you probably don't even know what I'm talking about! Go and do a Google

search for "Automatic Fly Reels" and you'll actually get some hits. You'll find that most hits are for used reels but there are a few that were never removed from their original package and can be purchased for around \$30. If you have an extra \$30 and you'd like to own one of these beauties (**ed note:** there's one for sale on Ebay that's had 7 bids and is still under \$10; go figure!) you should take-the-plunge; they may become extinct!

These contraptions used to be pretty common but they made a fast exit from the serious fly fisherman's tackle pack at about the same time that graphite started to replace fiberglass as a rod material. The reason usually given for their demise is "balance". Because they are heavy,

everyone said that their weight would put your graphite rod "out-of-balance". According Lefty and others who can cast great distances, balance doesn't mean much when you're casting. The dynamics of a fly-caster's world are constantly changing. As you vary the length of your cast the cg. of the whole system changes accordingly. You might not like the extra weight of the reel but it has little to do with *balance*.

So what actually brought these wonderful inventions crashing down? Their design was actually based on a great concept- provide a means to pick up all of that excess fly line, that always tangles around feet, and put it back on the reel with

*(Back cast to page 5)*



# Some Parting Shots



- Custom bamboo rods by Ed Temme
- Upper Delaware Brown trout—Ed Emery
- Club members “stalk” the Upper Delaware

