

MLFT

Newsletter

February, 2013

February Meeting: Thursday February 21st, 2013

Meeting starts at 7 PM

Presenter: Don Baylor

Don Baylor is fisheries biologist with Aquatic Resource Consulting in the Poconos. He has lived all his life in Stroudsburg, Pa. and has been an avid fly fisherman since age 11. His life long fishing experiences in the Poconos has made him an expert on the streams and hatches of the Poconos and Upper Delaware River. He first published a booklet on fishing the Poconos called Pocono Hatches back in 1980. He has recently revised (2009) and expanded that book as Pocono and Upper Delaware Hatches. The revised book is an excellent overview of the main hatches in the Poconos and discusses which streams they occurs. It also includes patterns and tying instructions.

Don has spoke at our club in the past. He has made excellent slide presentations on both the local hatches and patterns. We can look forward to an exciting and informative presentation.

January Highlights

A. K. Best, nationally renowned fly tier from Colorado gave an interesting presentation discussing his latest flies and fly fishing in Colorado. He presented a new black beetle design with wings. His studies showed that the beetles, at least in Colorado, float with the wings out when they land on the water. The most surprising part of his presentation was the pictures he showed of the Colorado streams. Last summer most of the west was affected by a serious draught. "Waterless" was a good adjective of those streams. It made Pennsylvania look really good. Hopefully the streams and the fish will recover this year.



George Kawchak and Jerry Girard tying Salomon Flies at January meeting.



News and Up-coming events this Winter

Youth Fishing day in Doylestown.

Doylestown has set aside a special fishing day for youths 16 and under. Borough Dam pond located at Chapman Park is stocked with trout up to 24 inches in length. This can be a great opportunity to introduce children to fishing. Check out the website.

The Youth Fishing Website: www.KidsFishDoylestown.org

Pennsylvania Fish commission

This past month I reviewed the Pa. Fish commission website and found several interesting reports that are of interest to our area.

2013 Stocking schedule published. State wide stocking schedule was published. Some area catch and released/delayed harvest streams such French creek, in our area are being stocked around 2/20/13. Ridley creek and the streams in the Allentown area are scheduled for stocking on 3/1/13. I noticed there are also changes in the frequency to which some area streams are stocked.

Bushkill creek wild trout section (below the Smith-Barney plant) was electro-shocked by the fish commission last year. The results unfortunately indicate that there is a significant decline in both the size and number of wild fish in the stretch. Fortunately, there still appears to be a good population of smaller trout but the number of fish over ten inches has had a big decline. The fish commission attributes the change to recent floods that have destroyed some of the deeper holes where fish found refuge in the low summer water.

The flat economy also appears to be taking a toll on the fish commission. They have been talking for the several years about the decline in fishing license sales in Pennsylvania and with it a decline in their funding. They are also facing increased costs for pensions. One effect of this is that they plan to close two trout hatcheries this year. This will result in a reduction in stocking of about 300,000 trout a year in the future. This will not be a huge change when you consider they stock about 3 million trout a year in Pennsylvania.

Delaware River Shad. There had been concerns in recent years that the shad run had declined. However, netting results last year indicated one of the

strongest runs in years. In addition, the size classes of the netted fish indicate that there should be a very good run this year.

Mauch Chunk Lake. This lake is right up the hill from Jim Thorpe. It is a very scenic "Big Bass" lake. The lake has been under Big Bass regulations or several years and was reassessed last summer. Electro shocking results indicated a very large population of bass and dramatic increase in the number of largemouth bass in 12 to 15 inch range. This lake can be an alternative to summer trout fishing.

Directions to Meeting Site:

Greater Plymouth Community Center

2910 Jolly Rd, Plymouth Meeting PA 19462 610-277-4312

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.

Club Officers

President :Steve Nack President@mainlineflytyers.net

Vice President :Chris McGeehan VP@mainlineflytyers.net

Treasurer :Jim Costello Treasurer@mainlineflytyers.net

Secretary : Donald Bowers Secretary@mainlineflytyers.net

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Raffle : Unsung Hero's :

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Elsa Zumstein Steve Ellis Al Katoke

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Board Members

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