

MLFT

Newsletter

Thursday May 21st, 2015 7 PM

Fishing Quote of the Month

**God does not subtract from a man's life the days spent in fishing.
Marcus Goleman**

May Presentation

Pat Cohen Bass Bugs

Bass season starts mid June and June is almost here. Pat Cohen is an expert using deer hair, foam and other materials to create original Bass bugs, streamers and under water lures to catch warm water and cool water fish. These are not size 20 BWO's flies that Pat ties. These are large streamers, poppers, bass bugs designed to catch large bass. Take a break from trout and enjoy a totally different type of tying and fishing.

Last month's speaker Greg Hoover

Greg Hoover, a Penn State entomologist and fly fisherman gave an interesting talk on fishing various hatches in central Pa. Greg also gave some history on how the Penn State fly fishing classes originated under George Harvey and the excellence of their classes. Greg had some photos of very rare mayfly hatches that most of us will never see. As a Biology Professor, Greg seemed to be very concerned that too many fly fishermen are using the wrong Latin names for our mayflies and caddis flies. We all need to work on that. However, in our defense, I think it is unfair that the biologists keep changing the names of the insects.

Opening Day on the Brodhead

There was a good turn-out for opening day, about 12-18 members. As usual Lenny and Randy did a bang up job of grilling a good lunch for everyone. It was a good day overall - great weather and most people were catching fish. The water was pretty cold which kept the bug activity down. Dave hooked and landed a beaut! But it wasn't the biggest of the day. On the other side of the stream, a while later, Sam landed one even bigger.

Annual Camping trip May 29th to May 31st.

Pleasant Valley Campground
Equinunk, Pa
Phone 570-224-4083

The annual camping trip to the Upper Delaware is scheduled for the last weekend in May (Friday to Sunday). Fishing is often challenging on the Upper Delaware, but there are great rewards with large, wild fish. Adding to the pleasures of the weekend, Lenny and his crew are planning

a major members-only dinner for Saturday night at 8 PM. Be on time or lose out! The Campground owner, Linda, would like all campers to call her ahead of time to make reservations. The phone number is listed above.

Time for Sulphurs

Every fly fisherman has their favorite hatch. For some it the Hendrickson's that are the first large mayfly of the season. For others it is the Green Drake whose size can bring up the largest trout in the stream. However, a good argument can be made for sulphurs. They come at the nicest weather of the season and they last for weeks, regularly hatching evening after evening. The following is an overview of the main aspects of the Sulphurs. Apologies to Prof. Hoover for the outdated Latin.

The Sulphurs are here!

Published by Joe Dziejzina [**Dizzy**] on 05/10/2015

The months of May and June here in southeastern PA bring forth the greatest event of the fly-fishing season... the SULPHUR HATCH. These yellowish mayflies are actually made up of three (3) different mayfly species; *Ephemerella rotunda*, *E. invaria*, and *E. dorothea*. Most streams in SEPA hold all three (3) species which can be good AND bad. It's good because it extends the sulphur hatch from 1st/2nd week of May through much of June (most seasons)... and it's bad because there are subtleties that the fish notice and key on (sometimes) and if the angler does not adjust, he (or she) could be in for a long evening. The good news though, is that the "bad" is well within your control.

First a quick overview of the three (3) players, in order of emergence;

- **Ephemerella rotunda**: Duns have a medium yellow body color with slight "olive cast" to them... the largest of the three by a hair, could be as large as a size 12 hook size, but a size 14 will do (a true "tweener")... often hatch out of very swift water (just below riffles)... hatching usually begins around Mother's Day and lasts 2-3 weeks...

hatch most often in late afternoons (4-6 pm)

- **Ephemerella invaria:** Duns have a yellowish/orange body color ... best imitated with a size 14 hook... often hatch out of slightly slower flows than rotunda's... hatching usually begins around 3rd week in May peaking around Memorial Day (slowing down in June)... hatch most often in early evenings (6-7 pm)

- **Ephemerella dorothea:** Duns have a pale yellow body color ... best imitated with a size 16 hook (sometimes 18)... often hatch out of slower pools... hatching usually begins in last week of May and lasting well into June... hatch most often in evenings (7-8:30 pm), sometimes right at dusk in a quick "blizzard" of activity.

Believe it or not, there are other "yellow" mayflies hatching during these same times as well, but those listed above make up the Sulphur Hatch as most anglers know it. As you can see there are differences between the three and it will save your sanity to have the proper sizes/colors to cover the gamut. At the very least I would carry size 14 dry fly's in sulphur yellow to cover the rotunda/invaria and size 16 pale yellow imitations to cover the dorothea (some anglers use a Light Cahill for this). To compound the mayhem, in addition to the overlapping hatch activity, trout will often key on a certain "stage" of emergence from drifting nymphs, to struggling emergers, to floating duns... and just when you think you have THAT all figured out, there could be spent spinners on the water as well!

If you show up to the stream in the mid afternoon and no fish are rising and no insects are on the water (or in the air)... you could be in for some fast action by tying on a Pheasant-tail nymph (size 14-16) and fishing the riffles and runs. Prior to emergence these nymphs will fill the water column as they struggle to reach the surface. Trout will be gorging on them and you will often see flashes in the stream as fish slash from side-to-side engulfing drifting nymphs by the mouthful.

Once a good supply of duns are on the surface the trout will come up for them and the real fun begins with dry flies... fish staging in faster water will be easier targets as they have precious little time to inspect your offering. Trout holding in slower pools will be a bit tougher, but may be larger and you should still dupe them easily with a stealthy "down & across" approach. If the fish refuse your floating dry, try tying an emerger pattern or weightless nymph about 6" off the back of the dry. This will take fish that are targeting these hapless naturals. Some of you may have heard people say that the trout are easier to catch at

the beginning of the sulphur hatch but get smarter as the weeks wear on? These are the guys that don't adjust to the dorothea activity and are missing out big time. The difference in a size 16 or 14 hook may not sound like much, but place the fly's next to each other and you will see why the trout key on one or the other. Just pay attention to what is on the water and you'll be OK.

The last piece of the puzzle is the spinner fall. Again, this can be as frustrating or as rewarding as you want to make it. Personally I take my largest "dry fly caught" trout every season during the spinner fall. It's an easy meal and one that large trout rarely pass up. As you survey the stream take notice of the presence of any swarms of "dancing" mayflies over the riffles. These will be egg-laden females preparing to drop their cargo into the drink before dying and dropping in themselves. The males in all likelihood have already fallen, spent from mating activity. During sulphur season this activity most often takes place during the early evening if not right at dark (maybe early morning if air temp's are too high for mating flights). These mating swarms start out high above the stream surface and if you happen to notice flocks of insect-eating birds (swallows, swifts, nighthawks... maybe bats) high above, you can be pretty sure that a spinner fall is about an hour away. Sounds complicated but it is surprisingly simple... for this activity I carry just one fly—The Rusty Spinner—in sizes 14-18. Look for subtle risers, often times near the tail ends of pools, just "dimpling" the surface and float your imitation right down into the waiting jaws of a heavy brown. If rising fish continue to ignore your floating dun, tie on a Rusty Spinner and 9 out of 10 times you will be surprised at the response.

Always keep in mind that ANY and ALL of the above described activities could be going on... sometimes simultaneously! Just be observant, let the trout tell you what they want, and you will enjoy your cigar and cold beverage a LOT more back at the parking area... this I promise.

Upcoming Club Events and News.

Club elections Elections for officers will be at the May meeting.

The following slate of candidates was approved at the April meeting

President **Chris McGeehan**

VP **Dave Gutsch and Jack Walsh**

Sec. **Don Bowers**

Treasurer **Jim Costello**

Penn's Creek Trip Coburn Pa. June 5 to 7th.

The club's yearly trip to Penns Creek is scheduled for June 5 to 7th. If interested, you need to contact the Feathered Hook by the first week in April. Last year they hit the Green Drake hatch and had excellent fishing. This year could be a repeat. The phone number of the Feather Hook is 814-349-8757 and their website is TheFeatheredHook.com

Up Coming club events

June Meeting Fishy Fullum

Directions to Club 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

Coordinators

Librarian: Web Guy: Newsletter: Refreshments :
Raffle: Unsung Hero's:
Ed Sclarow Mike Ebner, Jerry Usatch Kathleen McKenzie Ed Emery
Elsa Zumstein Steve Ellis Al Katoke
Newsletter@mainlineflytyers.net Feel free to contact us at any time

Board Members

Steve Nack Dave Shillington Sam Vigorita Jim Costello Chris McGeehan
Ed Emery Rick Say Kurt Griffin Mike Ebner. Don Bowers