



Muddy Matters

**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

The Newsletter of the Muddy Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

January 2007

Next Meeting January 17, 2007; 7 p.m. at the Collinsville Fish & Game Club.

Upcoming Chapter Events

January 17, 2007 - General Meeting

7:00pm at the Collinsville F&G Club

January 28, 2007 - Sunday Workday

1:00 pm at the Co-op Nursery
Plant Nursery/Eagle Scout Project

January 29, 2007 - Monday Workday

9:00am at the Co-op Nursery
Weather dependent tasks planned.

February 21, 2007 - General Meeting

7:00pm at the (Location TBD)
York Outdoor Show Planning Meeting
Volunteer to plan or represent MCTU
at this years show.

Feb. 23-25 2007 - York Outdoor Show

Fri, Feb 23, 2007 Noon - 9 pm
Sat, Feb 24, 2007 10 am - 9 pm
Sun, Feb 25, 2007 10 am - 3 pm

February 26, 2007 - Monday Workday

9:00am at the Co-op Nursery

C&R FFO Stocking in early March

Eagle Scout Project Jan 28th

We are in the process of improving our plant nursery capabilities by constructing a self-watering plant nursery as an Eagle Scout project.

Lend a hand on January 28 by volunteering your time. Vinnie Chioda needs 100 hours of volunteer labor and a successful project to complete his Eagle Scout requirements. Depending on weather, this may take up to four workdays.

*Volunteer to help Vinnie and
the Riparian Committee*

Presidents Message

As we start a New Year I would urge you to introduce someone new to the sport of fishing. A neighbor, a friend, a child, or a relative could have some interest in fishing, but never had the opportunity to give it a try. Offering to take someone fishing can be very rewarding for all involved. I suppose we can easily take this for granted. With the recent passing of my father I realize how fortunate I have been to be brought up in a family where hunting & fishing has been a very important part of our lives. I now realize the importance of those early years of being involved in outdoors. To a young angler the excitement and enthusiasm of fishing is very powerful stuff. Little did I know those early days of fishing would become a passion for a lifetime. As anglers we are constantly trying to observe what is happening in and along the stream to make decisions to have a successful fishing experience. Over time with knowledge obtained through education we soon understand the stream environment is truly what determines the quality of a fishery. So those early fishing trips became a passion for life and the love of trout inspires us to conserve and enhance our cold water fisheries for future generation to enjoy. Fishing has played a major role in shaping my life and defining who I am as a person. So take someone fishing during the 2007 season. Who knows you may provide the spark for the next generation of Trout Unlimited leaders?

My term as your president will expire in October 2007. There are several projects that I would really like to see completed this year. At Woodbine in March we will clean up debris and replant trees lost during the November flood and live stake to complete this Growing Greener project. Obtain GP3 Permits and complete the scheduled projects at our Cooperative Nursery and at the Catch & Release Fly-Fishing Only Area. Finish construction at the COOP (cooperative nursery building) and landscape the property. Complete the two Eagle Scout Projects.

Since 2004 the Muddy Creek Watershed has been hit with three significant flood events. Each one classified as 75-to-100 year flood events. These flood events caused much unanticipated work for the chapter. These flood events instantly change plans and schedules. MCTU members stood tall during these flood events and helped cleanup the debris left behind from these major events by lending a hand to landowners along the watershed first, before addressing our needs. MCTU members can be proud of their efforts during these trying times.

If MCTU can successfully complete the above-mentioned projects in 2007 we'll be right on schedule going into the elections of new officers & directors.

Happy New Year! Introduce someone to fishing in 2007!

Ronald Heuston

MCTU Chapter 575 Executive Staff

President: Ron Heuston 244-1851
Vice Pres: Billy Boyd 244-7388
Sec/Treasurer: Bob Shaffer 246-4512

Directors:

(3) Maurice Chioda 747-5613
(3) Christian White 495-8993
(2) Jim Bucher 371-0327
(2) Tom Dube 741-6914
(1) Dustin Boyd 244-7388
(One) 1-year position open - *Volunteer!*

Co-op Membership Chairman:

Steve Francis 862-3485

Co-op Nursery Manager:

Jan Pickel 382-4402

Grant & Incubator Program Coordinator

Ron Heuston 244-1851

Environmental Chairman

Maurice Chioda 747-5613

Riparian Buffer

(Vacant) Volunteer!

Dirt & Gravel Roads

Tom Dube 741-6914

Water Quality Specialist

Bill Stanley 755-4144

WAY Representative

(Vacant) Volunteer!

Stocking Coordinator

Maurice Chioda 747-5613

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Maurice Chioda 747-5613

Newsletter Support Staff

Ron Heuston - Contributing Editor

Bob Shaffer - Contributing Editor

Tom Dube - Contributing Editor

Bill Boyd - Mailing

www.muddycreektu.homestead.com

Muddy Matters is a publication of Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited, chapter no. 575. Questions or comments about the content of this newsletter can be submitted through regular mail;

Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited #575
P.O. Box 211
Dallastown, PA 17313

Or by emailing our website.

muddycreektu@comcast.net

Members may also contribute chapter related stories or articles to this newsletter by submitting them to the above addresses. This is your newsletter, help make it the best it can be. *Thank you.*

Report Water Pollution

PA Department of Environmental Protection
717-705-4741 After Hours: 877-333-1904

Report Fishing Regulation Violations
PF&BC Waterways Conservation Officer
SC Regional Office (717) 486-7087

Resolve to Conserve

Many of us joined TU because we enjoy fishing and the wonderful opportunities our water resources offer. TU as a vehicle offers many fishing related benefits that help us to enjoy one of our favorite past-times. From "inside track" information on where to fish to special deals on gear and artwork.

But lets not forget the Mission of TU is to conserve, protect and restore our cold water resources. Without adequate access and the cold water resource, trout fishing is not possible.

Our newsletter theme this month is "Resolve to Conserve." MCTU would like to challenge our members to commit to a conservation tithe this year. Many of us recognize the personal satisfaction gained from traditional monetary tithing, it demonstrates one's belief and commitment.

Tithing one's time to a good cause, like coldwater conservation efforts, can be a personally rewarding experience as well. Committing one's time to preserving and enhancing the streams that provide us much personal joy not only assures the resource remains for our future use and enjoyment, but for future generations as well. It is our legacy. MCTU has plenty of projects planned, and we hope to make it interesting, fun and rewarding for those of you who can step up.

"Resolve to Conserve" challenge.

- *Donate at least 8 hours this year to "hands on" Cold-water Conservation.*
- *Begin attending meetings to see how you can help the chapter.*
- *Volunteer for Chapter leadership.*

As Ron states in the Presidents Message, we will be having elections in October. Our current leadership is eager to begin grooming new leadership. But we cannot do this if nobody shows interest. We have too few doing too much at this time. By donating a little of your time this year, we can continue to deliver the benefits MCTU has to offer. We plan to change our meeting location to make it more convenient to attend meetings. We are also scheduling monthly workdays to allow members to plan their tithe.

"Resolve to Conserve" by volunteering with MCTU in 2007.

MCTU Changes for 2007

The leadership of MCTU is going into 2007 with an aggressive agenda. We have several conservation projects scheduled in addition to the COOP nursery needs and fund raising events. These conservation projects are excellent examples of our mission as a coldwater conservation organization. Preserving and protecting our watershed makes it possible to enjoy the varied and perhaps unique benefits each of us receive from it. They include...

- Winter-Woodbine clean-up and live staking.
- C&R FFO area bank rehabilitation & habitat improvement project.
- Airville Project on Orson Run
- Coop/Toms Run bank stabilization project.

To make this year more convenient for our volunteers, in addition to the occasional workday scheduled on the fly, we will be scheduling monthly workdays

The last weekend (either Saturday or Sunday, to be determined) of each month and the last Monday we will meet at the COOP or a specific site for workdays. The first being Jan 28th at the Coop to begin the Plant Nursery.

We are also moving our General Meeting to better serve our membership base and encourage better attendance.

We hope these changes are the "magic lure" to get our membership involved to accomplish our goals.

Kudos Korner

Special thanks to these members who Volunteered during recent projects and to the regular Nursery Feeders Please consider helping to feed the fish at the Nursery by contacting Maurice. Volunteer, we are always looking for help.

Incubator Prep	November Flood
Maurice	Clean-up
Gary Interdonato	Maurice
Michael Helfrich	Tom Dube
Ron Heuston	Blake Dube
Incubator Planting	Bob Shaffer
Fred Bridge	Michael Helfrich
Fred Wilt	Gary Interdonato
Jake Romig	Fred Bridge
Steve Francis	Ryan Bridge
Maurice	

See your name here, Volunteer!

Streamside Incubators Report

After the November 16th flood time was short and the streamside incubators needed repaired, setup, and cleaned out before the arrival of brown trout eggs. A special thanks to Maurice Chioda and his volunteers, who during the week of November 19th set up, cleaned out and inventoried incubators for repairs. This timely effort and precise inventory list saved time in getting the incubators operable. The Thanksgiving Holiday provided the much-needed free time to finish the necessary repairs before the deer season began.

On Monday December 4th 107,000 brown trout eggs were picked up at Huntsdale Fish Culture Station near Carlisle. Eighty percent of the 107K were eyed (fertile) 85,600 eggs. The eggs were placed into 183 Whitlock-Vibert boxes at three locations in the Muddy Creek Watershed. Hatching of eggs began by December 6th. By the 14th of December the hatching process was completed with thousands of brown trout fry in the streamside incubators.

Once the hatching process is completed the decaying eggs start to form fungus. At this time some of the fry remaining in the Whitlock-Vibert boxes have trouble escaping from the decaying eggs and fungus. On December 23rd the Whitlock-Vibert boxes were removed from the incubators to free those fry that were trapped and to provide more space for the swim up fry.

We had approximately an 80% hatch rate for the 2006-year class of brown trout. With 85,600-eyed eggs the 80% hatch rate produced 68,480 swim up fry for release in the Muddy Creek Watershed.

If you catch any of these small fingerling brown trout in the Muddy Creek Watershed (or any place else for that matter), please take extra care in handling and releasing these beautiful trout. As these trout have been born into the watershed and are truly the crown jewels of Muddy Creek. There is no mistaking these yellow-bellied beauties with stocked brown trout. These five to nine inch (and larger if released) brown trout are absolutely gorgeous and are the resource fish of the watershed.

Please protect the yellow-bellies!

PATU Special Edition Print Auction

The Pennsylvania State council is offering a rare opportunity to bid on a set of three prints created in 1992, 1993, and 1994 by famed wildlife artist George LaVanish. The original offering of these three prints depicting brook, brown and rainbow trout in their natural habitats was a limited edition of 250 prints. A special edition of 100 of each print produced exclusively for PATU is further enhanced with the personal signature of former president Jimmy Carter, who as many of you know had particular fondness for fishing Pennsylvania's premier trout streams. Two of the three prints in each set also include the artist's remarks.

Silent auction bids will be accepted from individuals in writing or by E-mail through midnight January 31, 2007. **The minimum accepted bid per set of three prints will be \$300.00.** Please note that \$20.00 to cover packaging, shipping and insurance cost, plus 6% sales tax, will be added to the total of the successful bids. Five of the seven sets currently in state council's possession are being offered at this time. If you are interested in a specific numbered set (81, 83, 84, 85 and 86 out of 100 are available), please so indicate in your bid.

Your bid should be sent to BOB MITCHELL, 41 BETHEL COURT, PORT MATILDA, PA 16870, or by E-mail to advertising@patrout.org. If you have any question or require additional information, you can contact Bob at 814-692-5232.

Rivers Conservation Plan

In November 2005, Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) for the Rivers Conservation Plan (RCP). The grant will be used to fund the preparation of a Watershed Conservation Plan (WCP) for the entire Muddy Creek watershed. A WCP is an inventory and assessment of the issues, concerns, threats and opportunities within the watershed and the development of a long term management strategy for the preservation, conservation, and restoration of watershed resources.

The benefit of this project is the continued funding through multiple grant opportunities of the recommendations within the plan. The recommendations in the plan are eligible for prioritized funding.

The plan is being prepared by our contractor, Buchart-Horn. We've begun developing the steering committee and are planning the first of several public meetings within the watershed. Through the steering committee and public meetings we hope to address all the concerns of landowners and municipalities to get the most of this valuable tool.

Stay tuned for public meeting details and further developments.

Co-op Nursery Report

This years crop of brown trout have been challenged by floods and a bacterial infection. Still, our dedicated staff of feeders continue to meet the challenge. We are still looking for volunteers interested in becoming regular Co-op nursery feeders. It only takes about 20 minutes to inspect the system and feed the fish. It is easy work and rewarding to those who have volunteered.

We have two openings we would like to fill immediately. One weekday and one on the weekend. If you have some extra time during the day to volunteer, contact Maurice to get on the Co-op Nursery Feeding schedule.

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January 2007 - Muddy Matters Resolve to Conserve Volunteers Wanted

In This Issue:

-  *Co-op Nursery Report and Feeders Wanted.*
-  *Streamside Incubators Report.*
-  *New Ideas For 2007.*
-  *Resolve to Conserve our Coldwater Resources.*
-  *PATrout Special Print Auction Offer.*
-  *MCTU Rivers Conservation Plan.*

MCTU Volunteer Opportunities

Start 2007 off on the right foot by helping MCTU with one of these Volunteer Opportunities. Make a difference by taking a full role or assisting with any of these current openings:

- *Weekly Nursery Feeders - Help feed the Co-op Trout.*
- *Newsletter Mailing (Fold, label and deliver to Post Office.)*
- *Newsletter Editor - Bi-monthly publication.*
- *Website Editor - Manage updates and simple design.*
- *Riparian Buffers - Help with planning, planting and Nursery.*
- *Stocking Coordinator - Co-op and/or State stocking.*

Contact Maurice if you want to lend a hand.



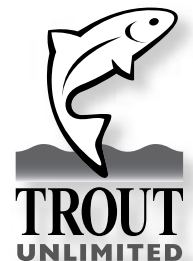
The 2004 15th Anniversary
 MCTU Patch "Joe Muddy"*
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Buy the complete set or continue your collection with the 2005 patch featuring...

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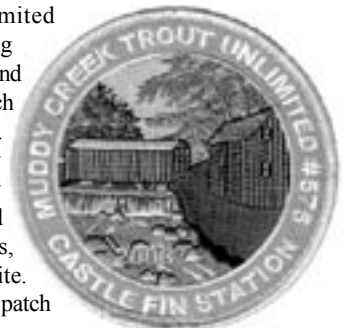
...and for 2006,
"Castle Fin Station"
 (shown below)
 Get all three for \$20.00
 *very limited supply.



**"Conserve,
 Protect,
 Restore"**

MCTU 2006 Collectors Patch

Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited has committed to continuing the collectable patch fund raiser. This years patch features "Castle Fin Station". Get your 2006 patch for \$6.00 at the York Outdoor Show, Opening Day Food Stands, Chapter meetings, and on our web site. Visit our web site to see the patch in color or to place an order.



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