

Clear Water Journal

Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited

January 2005

The Clear Water Journal is the newsletter of the Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited #OH667.

MEETINGS are the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the OSU/ATI Campus, in Room 30 (downstairs) of Skou Hall. OSU/ATI is located at 1328 Dover Road (U.S. 250) on the south edge of Wooster (directions on OSU/ATI web-site). Everyone is welcome, members and guests alike.

Clear Fork Chapter Officers:

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Clear Water Journal Is Moving ... To The Internet

*Print Edition Will Be Available By Special Request, Only
Read Clear Water Journal at www.cfrtu.org or by Email*

Happy New Year ... and for the Clear Fork Chapter 2005 is shaping up as a year of firsts:



We have joined forces with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to sponsor the first-ever Youth Fly Fishing Clinic. (Story on Page 4)



We have teamed up with the Wooster Parks and Recreation Department to stock rainbow trout in Apple Creek. (Story on Page 3)



And, to enhance our ability to develop more programs for Clear Fork members, we will move this newsletter to the internet, allowing us to put resources in other activities while providing you with more timely information about meetings and events.

The Clear Fork web page – www.cfrtu.org – is undergoing changes that allow members to interact between meetings. You can post your ideas for the chapter's future, display photos from recent fishing trips and keep chapter members informed about fishing conditions on your favorite streams.

After this edition of the Clear Fork Journal, the web page will be the primary source of information about the chapter. To cut expenses, we will mail a printed copy of the Clear Fork Journal to members who make a special request. Otherwise, Clear Fork Journal will be distributed by email and it will be posted at www.cfrtu.org.

To accomplish this transition, we need you to update or add your email address in our membership list.

Please login to the Clear Fork Chapter web site – www.cfrtu.org – and follow the "Email List" link to instructions for updating your email.

An outline of the web-based procedure is on the last page of the Clear Water Journal.

Make Plans Now For Oil Creek Outing

The Chapter is again making plans for the spring outing to Oil Creek Pennsylvania. This year the trip will be held the weekend of April 29-May 1, 2005.

The format is the same as in the past. Come as you can, and everyone is welcome. Some members may arrive on Thursday or Friday, others cannot make it until Saturday. We will again use the Oil Creek Camp Resort Campgrounds as our meeting location.

This will be the eighth time we have stayed here and we could not be more pleased with the location and facilities. The campground is located off Route 8; north of Oil City and south of Titusville (follow the signs). Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-395-2045. Most of our members stay in the area of campsite 12A, so you may want to ask for a campsite in this section of the campground. They are familiar with our group and will help place you with us. We also understand that some members may want to stay in a motel instead of camping, so we are looking for accommodations in the area of Oil City and Titusville.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, we will again be holding cookouts at one of the campsites. We keep these simple, just bring something to throw on the grill, and whatever else you want for supper. This has always been a great opportunity to exchange notes on the day's fishing and make plans for the next day.

These trips have always been very popular and we have had some great attendance. Oil Creek usually offers some great fishing with lots of public access. In addition, a beautiful paved bicycle trail offers approximately nine miles of bike riding, and the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, offers entertainment for those may want to take a break from fishing. The entire family is more than welcome on these trips.

For those who may not be familiar with Oil Creek, it is a beautiful trout stream located approximately 30 minutes east of the Ohio state line and about 30

minutes north of IS80 of PA Route 8. The location we usually fish is at the Oil Creek State Park, just north of Oil City. The stream is a fair size body of water with much of it being 75+ feet wide. There are sections of the stream that are deep, but most areas can be wadded with no problem. The Oil Creek State Park offers us over nine miles of access to the stream, all of which is stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

Equipment is not critical; any rod from a 3wt. to a 6wt. is fine. Most of the fish have been stocked within the last year or two and average 12-16 inches, both brown and rainbow trout. Waders or hip boots of some type are needed since fishing from the bank is difficult. Popular flies include the Woolly Bugger (black and olive), Pheasant tail Nymph, Hare's Ear Nymph, and since we will be there on the first of May, some type of Gammon Caddis pattern. The hatches on Oil Creek are reasonably predictable, but the fish are not. Every year it is kind of a contest to see what the fish are taking, and previous year's success is never "written in stone," so this is just a starting point.

The area abounds with wildlife and it is not unusual to see deer crossing the stream – and yes, on occasion, a bear. Keep in mind that a Pennsylvania fishing license and trout stamp are required. We understand you can buy these in advance at Gander Mountain stores, or on the way at Maurer's Sporting Goods on PA Route 8, at the end of the four lane highway, north of IS 80.

We will be discussing this trip and making the final arrangements in upcoming meetings.

Where To Stay

Oil Creek Camp Resort – 1-800-395-2045
(We are compiling a list of motels in the area)

What to Bring

3-6 weight fly rod
Wooly Buggers (black and olive)
Pheasant-tail and Hare's Ear nymphs
Gammon Caddis patterns

Waders or hip boots are a must

Apple Creek To Be Stocked With Rainbow Trout

The Clearfork Chapter of TU has partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Wooster to stock Apple Creek in Wayne County with rainbow trout. In March/April of 2005, twelve-inch rainbows will be stocked in a stretch of Apple Creek that runs through Grosjean Park in the City of Wooster.

Steven Gray, Chief of the Division of Wildlife of the ODNR, has given permission to stock Apple Creek with up to 2,000 rainbow trout for 2005. Disease free trout will be purchased from Rainbow Brook trout hatchery which raises its trout in Cold Creek near Castalia.. For the initial stocking, the City of Wooster will contribute \$1,500 towards the purchase of trout and the Clearfork TU Chapter will contribute \$500.

Grosjean Park, which is located adjacent to Rt.30, north-east of the Rt 250 and Madison Hill exit, is open to the public and is being maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department as a wilderness area with nature trails. Approximately three-quarters of a mile of Apple Creek runs through Grosjean Park. The creek runs through another mile or more of city and state property downstream from the park. There is ready access to the stream for fly fishers from several locations in the park.

A 1992 ODNR study of several dozen streams in Ohio rated Apple Creek as one of the top three streams in Ohio for potential as a trout fishery. It rated high for water quality, temperature and flow rates, cover and trout holding habitat as well as insect and other prey items to sustain trout. In mid-summer chapter members Tony Dalpra, Skip Nault, Dave Rose and Ben Stinner surveyed the creek at and downstream from Grosjean Park. They found water temperature did not exceed 72 degrees F and a number of deep holes (3-4 feet deep) created primarily by tree falls. The water was teeming with aquatic insects and minnows. There is potential that Apple Creek can hold trout year round.

The Parks and Recreation Department, with the assistance of the Clearfork Chapter of TU, will post signs in Grosjean Park that strongly encourage fly fishing and spin fishing using artificial lures with single hooks. Signs will also advocate catch and release practices to better maintain a sustainable fishery. Creel surveys and other information gathering methods will be used to evaluate the success of the trout stocking program.

If the initial program is successful, the City and TU will ask the ODNR for permission to continue stocking Apple Creek and provide funds to support the purchase of rainbow trout. Other organizations and businesses will be approached to determine interest in financially supporting the program. In conjunction with the trout stocking, TU will work with the Parks and Recreation Department to develop educational programs to promote fly fishing for kids and adults.

If you have questions, comments or would like to help with any aspect of the Apple Creek stocking program, please contact Skip Nault at nault.1@osu.edu.

Meetings ...

January 10

John Rochus will discuss "Basic entomology for the fly fisherman." John promises that the more you know about entomology, and especially aquatic insects, the better fly fisherman you will become.

John taught high school biology, chemistry and physics for 25 years before working full time as a professional fly fisherman for the past 8 years. He guides clients fishing for trout and steelhead in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and, more recently, bone fish in the Caribbean. He also gives fly tying and fly casting lessons. John represents more than three dozen fly fishing products such as Scott rods and Froghair leaders and tippets to fly shops in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

February 14

Jeff Liskay will speak on "Advanced fly fishing techniques for Ohio steelhead"

March 14

Phil Hillman from the ODNR will talk about "Ohio's inland trout program and stream protection efforts."

Chapter to Host Youth Fly Fishing Clinic

Our Chapter will host the first Youth Flyfishing Program at the DNR facility at Castailia on June 10.

This program is the first offered by a combined effort of the Ohio DNR and the Clearfork Chapter of T.U. It will be open to 15 students in the 12 to 15 year old range. The 15 successful applicants will receive a full day of instruction and fishing at the Castailia facility.

Instruction will include casting, equipment setup, basic entomology, and fly tying. They will be presented with a complete flyfishing setup, which they will learn to set up, use to catch trout in the stream at the facility, and take home at day's end.

Manpower for the event will be provided by our Chapter. Equipment will be provided by a combined effort of our Chapter and donor suppliers (to be named later). Come to the meeting, volunteer for the session and help us make a success of this endeavor.

You're Invited To The Wilderness Center

Clear Fork Chapter President Skip Nault has invited TU members to attend meetings of the Fly Fishing Club of the Wilderness Center in Wilmot (Skip is president of the club, too).

Meetings are 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month January through April and the second Thursday of the month the remainder of the year.

During the colder months, meetings are devoted to fly tying. The focus shifts to fly fishing nearby streams and ponds during the summer.



Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo

For the fly tiers in our group, and any others that may be interested, the North Coast Fly Fishers will be hosting their third Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo on January 15. The first two years of this event were fantastic, and it should be even better this year. The expo is held at the Radisson Hotel & Croatian Lodge Party Center, 35000 Curtis Blvd., Eastlake, Ohio 44095 at runs from 9AM to 5PM.

A complete list of celebrity tiers and vendors can be found on their web site: <http://expo2005.ncff.net/>.

Volunteers Needed For Adult Fishing Clinics

The Department of Natural Resources has established dates for its adult Beginning Fly Fishing Clinics, which are conducted in cooperation with the Clear Fork Chapter.

Dates are:

April 29

May 6, 13, 20

June 3

Our chapter has been the main source for instructors for these programs, in which participants are chosen under a lottery system.

Clear Water Journal Email Guide

The Clear Fork Chapter and Trout Unlimited make it easy to update your membership information, including your email address.

1. Navigate to www.cftru.org

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and navigation tabs: Home, Newsletters, About CFRTU, Join TU, and Meetings. A 'Member Login' link is in the top right. A left sidebar contains links for Articles, Upcoming Events, Next Meeting, Member Pictures, Fishing Reports, Fly Gallery, Links, and an 'Email List' link. The main content area has a 'New Website launched for CFRTU' announcement and a 'Welcome to the Members Only section' message. A 'Member Login' form is present with fields for Last Name and Member ID, a 'Remember my Name and ID' checkbox, and a 'Login' button. A 'Help locating your member ID' link is also visible.

2. Click Here

3. Login Here

4. Click Here

5. Follow these instructions

Save the chapter money! Let us send you your newsletter electronically!

You are logged in as Kent Darr. The last time we received information from Trout Unlimited, your email address was recorded as kdarr@ohafcio.org.

We are currently receiving all email addresses from Trout Unlimited. If you are not receiving newsletters via email, or your address above is not correct, please follow the directions below.

1. Logon to TU's Membership Services Website. It is available at www.tu.org, under the "Members" menu item. You will need your Membership ID to logon. You can also use the link below, which will automatically log you on:

[Membership Services on www.tu.org](#)

2. Click on "Membership Information"

3. Update your email address, and click "Submit Changes"

Clear Water Journal Print Only Request

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