



Clear Water Journal

The Official Newsletter of the Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited

April 2006

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

Trout Unlimited is a national conservation organization with over 95,000 members dedicated to "protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."

OIL CREEK OUTING

The date for the Oil Creek spring outing has been set for the weekend of April 28 - 30th. Although we were rained out last year, in previous years these dates worked very well as the weather is usually pleasantly cool and the Grannom hatch can be phenomenal...much more consistent than the sulphur hatch!!!

For those that may not have made this trip before, the format is very simple: come when you can and fish. Most of our members stay at the Oil Creek Camp Resort Campground (1-800-395-2045 for reservations, cabins available). Some members come on Wednesday or Thursday, others can't get there until Saturday. Feel free to arrive when you can. We again hope to have cookouts on Friday and Saturday evenings. This is nothing formal, just a good relaxing time. Bring the whole family, and if you have it, a bicycle. The Oil Creek State Park, where we fish, has a beautiful nine mile, paved bicycle trail. It also offers some great access to Oil Creek that would otherwise require a very long walk.

Check the website for more details and Oil Creek links, and the new hotline for last minute details.

CHECK OUT WWW.CFRTU.ORG

Don't forget to check out www.cfrtu.org for the latest information on chapter meetings and upcoming events, as well as articles on presentations, Apple Creek status and many other exciting items.

CFRTU HOTLINE

Keeping in touch is always difficult, and we are always looking for new ways to communicate with members. Our newest way to check on upcoming events is with our new hotline, (330) 408-5257. We will post upcoming meetings and major events, and it will also be the best way to get last minute details on outings!

EMAIL UPDATES

Email has become a critical method of keeping in touch with Chapter members. The price of postage and printing has surged, as has the number of members, making sending out a regular newsletter too expensive. Because of that expense, we have been using email extensively. Each month we send out meeting reminders, as well as notices for special events. Unfortunately, we have the email addresses of less than half of our members.

We get our email addresses from Trout Unlimited national, so if you would like to setup your email address, please go to www.TU.org. Have your membership ID handy (it can be found on the mailing label for this newsletter or the latest issue of TROUT). If it is your first time logging in, there is a place to click to help guide you. Once you are logged in, click on "Edit Profile" under the Members Center, and then "Edit" again once you see your existing contact information. From there you should be able to update your email address.

Chapter Contacts**President**

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Upcoming Events**May Meeting (May 8th):**

Scott Zody, Assistant
 Director, Ohio Division of
 Natural Resources

Oil Creek Outing (May 28-30th):

See the article on this page
 for more details

Upcoming Meeting Dates

June 12th
 July 10th
 August 14th
 September 11th

Apple Creek Project Status**By Skip Nault**

The Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Wooster, has established a new sports fishery in Wayne County's Apple Creek. The stream has been stocked three times over the past year with nearly 2,000 rainbow trout. The two spring and one fall stocking have been on a two mile stretch of Apple Creek that passes through Grosjean Park and other property owned by the City.

Apple Creek is fed year round by numerous springs in the area and also carries significant runoff following rain storms. The creek meanders through a wooded riparian corridor in the Park. The stream is characterized by many stretches of riffles interrupted by deep pools created by tree falls. The stream has proven so far to provide excellent habitat for stocked trout and a wonderful new sports fishery for fly fishermen and spin fishermen alike. Apple Creek is one of the few streams in Ohio stocked with rainbow trout and open to public access.

TU and the City have strongly encouraged a catch and release policy. An informal survey taken last spring suggests that stocked fish were caught and released an average of 3 to 4 times. It is not known whether fish stocked in the spring of 2005 survived the summer but it is known that fish stocked in the fall of 2005 survived and were being caught in the spring of 2006.

To date, several hundred fishermen have taken advantage of this new fishery. Fishermen and women of all

ages have come to Grosjean Park from northeastern and central Ohio to try their luck. While a few fishermen report that they have been "skunked", most have caught fish with some having caught and released as many as 30 rainbows in a days fishing. While many fish caught have been in the 10-14 inch range, a number of 16-20 inch lunkers have also been taken (and released). For comments from those have fished the stream, check out our website at www.cfirtu.org, click on Apple Creek Stocking followed by Fishing Survey Results.

What about the future? TU and the City hope to continue the program. TU in collaboration with the School of Natural Resources of the Ohio State University will be conducting a research study of Apple Creek, not only at Grosjean Park but upstream in the headwaters of the creek. The purpose of the study is to evaluate habitat conditions and population dynamics of trout, evaluate the macroinvertebrate food base, determine how upstream land use practices affect water quality and develop a creel survey. The study will help to guide future stocking and management of trout as well as habitat improvement to enhance this new rainbow trout fishery.

For more information on Apple Creek check our website at www.cfirtu.org.

Chapter Elections

Chapter Elections will be held at the September 11th Meeting. If you have an interest in becoming part of the CFRTU leadership team, please contact one of the current chapter leaders. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will all be on the ballot this year.