

Clear Water Journal

The Newsletter of Clear Fork Trout Unlimited, Chapter #0h667

April 2005

New Feature Bugman Reports

Clear Fork President Skip Nault has a thing for bugs – don't we all. The difference is that Skip knows their fancy names, their lifestyles and where they rank on the trout menu. In this new feature, Bugman talks about beetles.
Page 2

Apple Creek Update

Thanks to the Clear Fork Chapter, the city of Wooster and countless volunteers, there are rainbows in Apple Creek. To promote the future of the stocking program, please fill out the creel survey on ...
Page 3



Read It On The Web



Clear Fork member Randy Rowe took extensive notes when Jeff Liskey talked steelheading at the February meeting.
www.cfrtu.org

Upcoming Meetings

From trips we dream about to the trials of fish farming, Clear Fork chapter meetings have a little for everyone.
Page 4

Contact Us



We need to hear from you. Find an officer or contact us on the internet. And don't forget to keep your email address up to date when you're online.
Page 4

The Clear Water Journal and more news about Clear Fork Trout Unlimited are on the web at www.cfrtu.org

April Meeting: A Man and his Flies

Noted fly tyer Eric Dennis will get up from the bench to present "Steelheading: Thinking outside the box."

Eric has been fly fishing and tying flies for over 20 years. He is considered one of Ohio's best tiers. The following commentary is from his wife Mary, who sums it up best.

"Eric has a love for fly tying that is hard to explain. He's a perfectionist always trying to create a better fly. It is a passion that is indescribable. He loves to tie flies for his friends, and when they go out west or where ever, he's tied a box of flies with 40-50 flies for each of them. I tell him he is obsessed - but I am his wife. I'm glad he has the passion."

Eric attended the College of Wooster for three years, where he played on the Fighting Scots basketball team, before transferring to OSU to complete his undergraduate degree. He received his D.D.S. degree from OSU and is now an Akron dentist where he lives with Mary their two children.

L.L. Bean On Board For Youth Clinic

Through an arrangement with Trout Unlimited, L.L. Bean will provide fly rods, reels, line and fly tying kits during the June 10 Youth Clinic, sponsored by Clear Fork Trout Unlimited and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

That's great news for Clear Fork Trout Unlimited and the kids who will receive a day of instruction in equipment set up, casting, "bugology" and other aspects of fly fishing from chapter instructors.

Meanwhile, time is running out to apply for the DNR lottery that is being used to select 15 youth age 15 or younger for the clinic. Postcards must be submitted to the DNR no later than May 1.

Tiers, Warm Your Benches

With the DNR supplying the facility for the clinic, the Clear Fork chapter is supplying instructors and flies.

We need flies to use during the clinic – participants can keep the fish they

HOW TO GET IN THE LOTTERY

The Ohio DNR is using a lottery to select 15 participants age 15 and younger.

Applications must be postmarked by May 1 and mailed to:

ODNR
Division of Wildlife District Two
952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840
Attention: Youth Fly Fishing Clinic.

Include the young person's name, age, address, and phone number. Each applicant must be 15 years of age or younger by the date of the clinic and be accompanied by a non-fishing adult.

No duplicate postcards may be submitted.

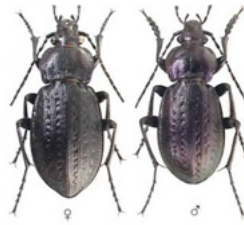
The Castalia Hatchery is located in Erie County, of State Route 269 near Castalia.

catch – and to send home at the end of the day. Bring your flies to a Clear Fork chapter meeting or contact any of the officers listed on Page 4.

Bugman Reports

Flyfishing With Beetles

By Skip Nault



MOST FLY FISHERMEN know something about the appearance, biology and behavior of the mayflies, caddis flies, stone flies and other aquatic insects that make up a large part of a trout's diet. Studies conducted on the feeding habits of trout, primarily done by examining the stomach contents of harvested fish, confirm that in the spring and fall of the year, all stages of aquatic insects make up the bulk of food items eaten. However, during summer months, terrestrial insects, land dwellers that accidentally fall into the water, dominate the food fare eaten by trout.

Fly fishermen know that during summer months it is worthwhile to switch to hopper, ant or beetle patterns for success. This past August when I fished the Yellowstone River for the first time, I used hopper patterns most of the time to fool rainbows, cutthroats, "cutbows" and browns. On the Clear Fork, beetle patterns have proven successful during summer months. Yet many fly fishermen seem to know little about the terrestrial insects that they imitate with their fly patterns. In this article I will discuss those black beetles that comprise such an important part of a trout's mid-year diet.

BEETLES are the most numerous of insect species on earth, making up more than one-third of the million or more insect species described by entomologists. Beetles are found in about every ecological niche possible; in the soil, on and inside living plants of every description, and on decomposing plants and animals and their waste products. There are numerous species of aquatic beetles that complete their life cycles in fresh water. Beetle species specialize on all kinds of food items including other insects and invertebrates, plants, carrion, dung, fungi

and virtually all kinds of organic matter, dead or alive.

BUT OF ALL THE BEETLE species found in the stomach of a trout, a group collectively called the predaceous ground beetles are the most likely to be eaten. They are abundant both in species diversity, there are more than 2,200 species known from North America, and in sheer numbers. As their name suggests, they are primarily predators, feeding on a variety of insects and other small invertebrates. Like all other beetles, they undergo a complete metamorphosis, developing from egg to larva then pupa and adult. Except for the adults, most fly fishermen would not regularly run into the immature stages. They remain hidden from view, mostly just under the soil surface where they feed and develop. It is the adults that are most often encountered on the soil surface, litter or plant surfaces. When startled, they rarely fly but escape by rapidly running away. If they end up in the water, it is because they have lost their perch on an overhanging rock, log, shrub or tree.

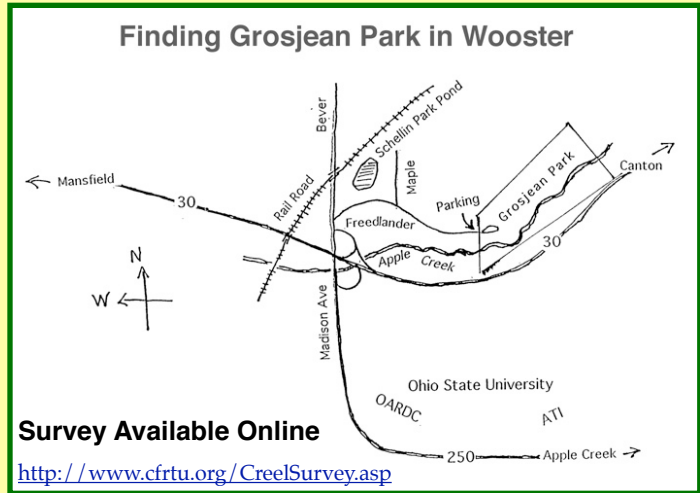
Predaceous ground beetles, or *carabids* as they are known by biologists, range in size from less than an 1/8 of an inch to over an inch in length. One group of large, inch-long *carabids* are the caterpillar hunters. One species found in Ohio, a brilliant greenish colored beetle with a blue thorax, was introduced from Europe to aid in the control of the gypsy moth. Despite the brilliant colors of the caterpillar hunter, most ground beetles are black. The first pair of wings are tough and often hard, covering and protecting the thorax, abdomen and the second pair of wings used for flight. The belly of these beetles is usually black but often have a metallic blue, purple or copper sheen.

BUGMAN'S PATTERN

When tying ground beetle imitations, I generally use a #14 or #16 dry fly hook. While a number of natural materials can be used to form the body, I favor closed cell foam now common on the market. Raney's Float Foam(TM) is one product I have used to tie a number of terrestrials, including beetles. I found a new product at the Third Annual Northern Ohio Fly Tyers Expo held in Eastlake this January. Bill Skilton from Boiling Springs, Pa., markets his Three Color Foam Bug Strips. I used his 3/16 inch wide black foam strip with a broad orange stripe down the middle to tie my beetles. But I diverge from Bill's tying instructions. Instead of six legs tied mid-shank at the bottom of the hook, I use two sections of round rubber legs tied in one on each side to create two legs facing forward and two facing backward (I'll bet that trout can't tell that two legs are missing). Then, after I tie in the foam strip at the end of the hook, I dub my 6/0 black thread with Spirit River Lite-bright Bronze Peacock (TM) and form an underbody. I now tie in the legs and finally the foam to create an abdomen, thorax and head. Now when the trout looks up on the surface of the water to see the artificial, the bottom of the beetle reflects a colorful sheen just like the natural.

FISH THE BEETLE under overhanging shrubs and trees. It's OK to plop them down hard on the water surface, just like a natural falling from its terrestrial perch. Trout will often take them immediately after they hit the water. So tie up a few predaceous ground beetles for your fly box and have them ready for those hazy, lazy days of summer.

Apple Creek Trout Fishing Survey at Grosjean Park



Name: _____

Date: _____

Age: _____

City of Residence: _____

Fishing Tackle: Fly _____ Spinning _____

Number of trout caught: _____

Number of trout released: _____

Comments: _____

Apple Creek at Grosjean Park has been stocked with rainbow trout with funding from the Wooster City Parks and Recreation Department and Clear Fork Trout Unlimited. We ask that you fish with artificial flies and lures with a single hook (no treble hooks, please). We also encourage you to return fish to the stream unharmed, so that you or others may have the pleasure of catching the same fish again.

We thank you for filling out this survey form. Future stockings of Apple Creek will depend on your responses to this new program at Grosjean Park.

Return to: Skip Nault
 2722 Taylor Street
 Wooster, Ohio 44691

or Put in the Drop Box
 Wooster Community Center
 241 S. Beaver St., Wooster

Meeting Calendar

Clear Fork Trout Unlimited meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. on 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 website). Everyone is welcome, members and guests alike.

May

Roy Furguson, Jr.: "Fly fishing Alaska and British Columbia on a budget"

Roy Furguson has been guiding fishermen looking for trout, steelhead and salmon in Alaska and British Columbia for a number of years. His slide show will feature some of these many trips. As Roy says, "Don't let the wild scenery, huge salmon or hungry bears scare you from learning more about fishing in the Northwest." And don't miss his presentation. To quote a testimonial from Bill Byrd of

Collegiate Peaks Anglers/ Trout Unlimited, "Roy's slides of the scenery, game and big fish kept the audience spellbound."

Roy grew up in Wayne County, graduating from Rittman High School and attending Wayne College before moving west. He lived in Alaska for several years before moving to Colorado. He has been a real estate broker in Aurora, Co., for the past 24 years. Roy is well known in fly fishing circles in Colorado. He has served the West Denver

and Aurora TU clubs as president, a member of the board of directors, as publicity and program chair as editor of the newsletter and much more.

Roy will be here in the month of May to visit his mother who lives in Wooster. We are very pleased that he is taking time from his busy schedule to meet with us. And get there early, we expect a big crowd

June

Dan Longnecker, owner and operator of Rainbow Brook Farm in Castalia. This was the source of the rainbow trout

that the club stocked in Apple Creek in March. In addition to rainbows, Dan raises brown trout and brook trout. Dan will review the trials and tribulations of fish farming, managing fish disease and many other subjects.

July

Chuck Kraus, Fly fishing in Argentina

August

Vernon Bewley, fly fishing in New Zealand

September

Mark Kasubick, Fly fishing for Ohio Steelhead

Fishing Reports, Fly Patterns, Discussion Boards, Timely News and Much More at www.cfrtu.org

Reminders

THE OIL CREEK outing is April 29 - May 1. This is a great escape for you and your family. Details are available at www.cfrtu.org and in the January newsletter.

ADULT FLYFISHING CLINICS: Volunteers are needed for the introductory clinics, which are sponsored by the Ohio DNR with instruction provided by Clear Fork members.

Clinic dates are:

April 29
May 6, 13 and 20
June 3

YOUR, ARTICLES, PHOTOS

WELCOMED We welcome submissions to the *Clear Water Journal*. Send photos and articles to:

Kent Darr
194 Clouse Lane
Granville, Ohio 43023
or by email to kentdarr@adelphia.net

Clear Fork TU Officers

President:

Skip Nault
2722 Taylor Dr.
Wooster, OH 44691
nault.1@osu.edu

Vice President:

Tony Dalpra
3117 Aspen Dr.
Wooster, OH 44691
dal3117@sssnet.com

Secretary:

Jamie Darr
10538 State Route 39
Millersburg, OH 44654
joandarr@bright.net

Treasurer:

Jeff Miller
3591 Snyder Dr.
Wooster, OH 44691
jeff@jmiller.us
Executive Officer:
Steve Gossage
8196 James Rd
Wooster, OH 44691
swgossage@aol.com

DIRECTORS

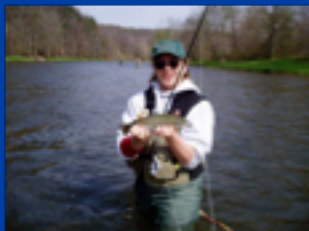
Jimmy Acord
2612 Armstrong Dr.
Wooster, OH 44691
turtles@bright.net

Ron Thompson
3549 St. Rt. 39
Shelby, OH 44875
rthompson6@neo.rr.com

Mike Dull
990 Knoll St.
Canton, OH 44709
mdull@attglobal.net

Graham Stokes
203 E. Brooklyn St.
Gambier, OH 43022
gstokes@columbus.rr.com

J. Travis
160 W. High St.
New Concord, OH 43762
jmtflyfisher@yahoo.com



Oil Creek Memory

Heather Powell proudly displays her first rainbow, caught during last year's Oil Creek outing.

Thanks to Heather's dad, Clear Fork member Scott Powell, who posted this photo in the members' photo section of the Clear Fork Trout Unlimited website.

Go to www.cfrtu.org to view more photos – or post your own.