

Clear Water Journal

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Apple Creek Clean Up Is August 27

You can help improve trout habitat in Apple Creek by participating in a river clean up and stream restoration project from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, August 27.

The Clear Fork Chapter, along with 50 to 100 College of Wooster freshmen, will clear trash and begin stream

restoration and bank stabilization projects to provide improved habitat and temperature control.

The Wooster Parks and Recreation Department has asked the chapter to supervise the students. They will help plant trees, distribute logs and rocks, and engage in other restoration projects.



Meetings:

September 12

Guide Mark Kasubick will talk about the Ohio steelhead fishery.

Fly Reel Raffle: The prize is an Orvis Battenkill Bar Stock III for line weights four through seven. Retail for \$129.

October 10

Skip Nault will talk about fishing the Yellowstone and other southern Montana trout

ivers.

Fly Rod Raffle: Orvis T3, nine-foot, four-weight, four-piece. This is Orvis' top of the heap fly rod and retails for \$625.

Outing:

The chapter is planning a Pennsylvania trout fishing outing for the weekend of September 23 to either Spring Creek or the Youghiogheny River. More details at the September meeting.



Happy Clients, Happy Guide

Mark Kasubick, hiding behind a hen steelhead, with a family of satisfied steelheaders. Kasubick will discuss steelhead tactics during the September 12 meeting.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER MARK KASUBICK

OPENS THE DOOR TO STEELHEAD SEASON

A Little About Mark Kasubick And Chagrin River Gillies

We started out as a couple of guys making some extra money guiding for the emerging steelhead fishery in the mid '90's. I had just arrived in Cleveland from a several year stint in Idaho guiding on the rivers in the southeast corner of that state. It seemed to me only natural to supplement my meager student's budget by guiding some trips for the steelhead.

There was more business than I could handle alone, so I contacted several friends that were at loose ends during the winter as they were Alaska guides, and Chagrin River Gillies was born. With the demise of several local fishing retailers leaving a hole in the market I expanded into the retail market and Gillies is now a full line Orvis, Patagonia, Simms, Sage, and Scott dealer. We also organize trips around the world to some really fun and unique fishing destinations.

Our love has always been with the big and abundant steelhead right here at home. Over the last fall and spring I put a few more than 120 days on the Ohio tribs guiding for these wonderful fish, and my three other guides together put in about 200 total between them.

Oil Creek Outing: Tough Fishing=Good Trip

The outing to Oil Creek with the Trout Unlimited Chapter that was scheduled for April 29 - May 1 had to be cancelled due to water and weather conditions. Who would have thought we would be hit with snow near the end of April! We ended up with about 15 members being able to make the trip May 13 - 15.

The weather and water conditions turned out to be great, but the fishing a little challenging. We had some great hatches,

but selecting the fly the fish wanted could be a little frustrating. With a nice caddis hatch coming off on Saturday, the fish wanted the hordes of size 20 Blue Winged Olives. The killer fly that day was a size 20-22 Blue Winged Olive emerger fished on the bottom! Go figure.

Overall it was a good trip and I believe everyone had a great time. We hope the change of dates did not keep anyone from attending who wanted to go, but it would have been a waist of time to fight the weather on the original date. Hope we have better luck next spring!

Submitted by Steve Gossage

Youth Clinic Big Success; We'll Be Back For More

They learned to leave no stone unturned – when looking for tasty trout tidbits – and they learned to tie what they find swimming and crawling and fluttering around the stream. They learned a knot or two and they learned to cast. And they discovered that all that learning can have big rewards.

They were the 15 kids ages 11 to 15 who were selected by lottery to inaugurate the Youth Fly Fishing Clinic sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and staffed by the Clear Fork Chapter.

By the end of a sultry day in June, each had caught five-fish limits at the DNR's Castalia trout hatchery and learned a little about fly fishing and Trout Unlimited's mission of coldwater conservation and entomology.

None of this would have been possible if not for some lunch chatter among Clear Fork members Ron Thompson, Vernon Bewley and Jamie Darr during an adult fly fishing clinic last summer.

With the chapter's support and the help of DNR's Linda Keesecker, the youth clinic was ... hatched.

The clinic was such a success that we will team with DNR again for a repeat performance in 2006.

We owe a special thanks to these business sponsors, who supplied everything from fly tackle to lunch: Buehler's supermarkets in Wooster and northeast Ohio, Mad River Outfitters in Columbus, Jann's Netcraft in Maumee, Cabela's and L.L. Bean.



Learning to Cast ... Brittany Fabrig of Richfield



On The Cover

Brandon Hoobler with a fine Castalia rainbow.

All photos by Jimmy Acord



Learning to Like This ... Thomas "TJ" Rumpf Jr. of Perrysburg



Learning to Tie ... David Seagle of Berea

A Short History Of Trout Stocking In Apple Creek and Its Promise For The Future

By Skip Nault, President, Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited

In 1992, Kevin Kayle, a fishery's biologist with the Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), conducted a study of 39 selected Ohio streams to determine their suitability for stocking with brown and rainbow trout. The state stocks streams with year-old, 7-8 inch browns that may not be harvested until they reach 12 inches. Lakes and reservoirs are stocked with 10-13 inch rainbows that may be harvested immediately after stocking. The two highest rated streams in the ODNR study, the Clear Fork River and Clear Creek, are now stocked yearly with brown trout.

Apple Creek in Wayne County is rated as the third best stream in Ohio. The rating system measures such factors as water temperature and quality, trout habitat suitability and public access. The ODNR report had this to say; "Apple Creek could be a candidate stream (for stocking), with careful inspection of easement and public access availability; its location in a small city (Wooster) and proximity to Canton and Akron ... would make this fishery available to many suburban and urban residents."

In 1998, the Grosjean family donated land to the city of Wooster to create a woodland park that includes a 3/4 mile stretch of Apple Creek. This, coupled with another mile or more of Apple

Creek owned by the City of Wooster, provides considerable new access to Apple Creek by the public.

When members of the Clear

Fork Chapter of TU approached the Division of Wildlife about stocking Apple Creek with brown trout, we were told that they did not have the resources to stock additional streams. In late 2004 our chapter asked the ODNR for permission to privately stock Apple Creek with rainbow trout in the spring of 2005. Permission was granted! Thus, on March 19 of this year, approximately 850 rainbow trout were stocked along a one mile stretch of Apple Creek at Grosjean Park and city owned property in Wooster. The fish, produced and purchased from Rainbow Brook Farm in Castalia, averaged 12 inches long and one pound in weight. The cost was \$2000 with \$1500 from the city of Wooster and \$500 from our Chapter.

The first stocking of this stretch of Apple Creek is considered as "experimental" by TU and the City of Wooster. We have no idea how well the trout will survive and if they do, will they provide an exciting new fishery for the area. Thus, a fishing survey was established so that fishermen could report to TU by returning a paper survey form or by electronically submitting the form from our web site. If there are to be future stockings and expendi-

ture of funds we want to measure the success or failure of this first stocking.

As of mid-July, we had 127 responses to our survey. While we cannot know with certainty what proportion of fishermen have responded to our survey, our most optimistic guess is that fewer than one in four are represented. The results of the first six weeks of fishing after stocking is reported in the table below. These first 12 weeks represent 114 reports, the catch of 794 rainbows or an average of seven fish per fisherman per day. Numbers of fish caught per day dropped off after the first month to an average of 3-5 fish per day. Most fishermen were adults followed by senior citizens and then young people under 18. More than two-thirds of fishermen came from towns and cities outside Wooster. Many of these were from Akron and Canton.

Most people listed themselves as fly fishers who practiced catch and release. The most popular fly has been a black woolly bugger but bead head nymphs, sucker spawn, and yes, even dry flies have produced fish. Several spin fishermen reported in and they too mostly practiced catch and release. Many bait fishermen were seen on the creek (canned corn was a favorite bait) and these were mostly "meat" fishermen. State law allows the harvest of five trout per day in Apple Creek.

NUMBERS OF FISHERMEN AND FISH CAUGHT AT APPLE CREEK

Weeks After Stocking	Number of Fishermen	Fish Caught	Fish/Fisherman/Day
1	29	186	6.4
2	21	183	8.7
3	18	150	8.3
4	22	174	7.9
5	6	31	5.2
6	5	24	4.8
7-12	13	46	3.5
TOTAL	114	794	7

As of July 20 rainbows were being caught in Apple Creek, but in low numbers. It is not known whether rainbow trout will survive the warm temperatures and low water levels of late July and August. When the stream was first stocked in March, stream temperatures were in the 30's and 40's. Currently it is in the low 70's. The upper limit for rainbow trout survival is in the mid to upper 70's provided the water is sufficiently oxygenated. In the first few weeks after stocking, fish could be found throughout the stream in riffles, runs and pools. Currently, trout have settled into deep



The Apple Creek Stocking Crew

pools, some 4-5 feet deep, to take advantage of cover, cooler temperatures and foraging for abundant invertebrates and minnows.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Fishermen I have spoken to are enthusiastic about continuing the program (please read the sidebar for comments returned to us on the survey forms). The practice of catch and release has greatly extended our resources. If we have surveyed less than one-quarter of persons fishing Apple Creek, the stocking of the stream has resulted in an astonishing 3,000 or more rainbow trout being caught! Daryl Decker, Superintendent of Parks for the City of Wooster is very pleased with the program, not only because it has provided a new recreational activity for city residents, but because it has attracted so many nonresidents to the area. The city is open to the possibility of another stocking this fall and would very much like to fund another stocking in the spring of 2006. We anticipate that our chapter would cosponsor and fund these stockings.

I have received many questions from TU members over the past several months about the Apple Creek trout stocking program. Among them are whether we can stock brown trout as well as rainbows? Can we limit fishing in the city park to fly fishing and to catch and release? Can the state assist us with stocking from their hatcheries? I do not have answers now to these questions and requests. I do believe we will be in a better position to make such requests to the Wooster Parks and Recreation Department and the ODNR if we are successful with the current

program for another year or two.

Stocking Apple Creek is just a beginning in creating a new trout fishery in northeast Ohio. For an urban stream, the creek is remarkably free of litter. Nevertheless, continued trash pickup will improve the riparian stream sides, the stream itself and the fishing experi-

ence. There is also a need to improve the trout holding habitats of the stream. Upper areas of the stream at Grosjean Park have good tree cover but long stretches are characterized by flat water, shallow riffles and just a few deep pools. Much of the stream bed here is shale with little gravel and sand. The stream in the lower stretch of the park has less cover, some stream side erosion, but also has many deep pools created by tree falls over the sand and gravel bottom. The best fishing has been in these deep pools. Apple Creek can be improved by stabilizing eroded banks, planting trees to increase cover and especially finding ways to increase the number of deep pools throughout the stream.

The stocking of Apple Creek at Grosjean Park was not widely publicized, rather it was made known to several fly fishing clubs in the area and to others by word of mouth. With additional stockings, the program will be more widely publicized. Should the stocking program continue and projected stream improvements be successful, this will be an opportunity for our members to educate area residents and other Ohioans about stream conservation and to promote fly fishing.

Right now the future seems very bright for creating a new and lasting trout fishery in Apple Creek. Moreover, what our chapter is doing now and can do in the future is supportive of the Trout Unlimited mission to "promote coldwater conservation by participating in conservation projects, education and activities that support this work."

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS TO APPLE CREEK AND GROSJEAN PARK



~**First time I caught trout on a fly rod; great fun! (Wooster)**

~**Great fishing! I would volunteer to help clean up trash. Went to Bistro afterwards for dinner. (Canton)**

~**I really appreciated having a place close to home to fish for trout. This may be one of my favorites. (Marshallville)**

~**Really a great fishing hole. (Smithville)**

~**Would you believe that I ran into another fly fisherman from Cuyahoga Falls. I think the word is getting out to the fly fishing community. (Wooster)**

~**Thank you for stocking Apple Creek. I had a great day! (South Euclid)**

~**What a great day. The Rainbows were up to 14 inches long. (Louisville)**

~**I've enjoyed this fishing experience. I especially liked catching rainbows. (N. Canton)**

~**When all the other water was high and unfishable in Ohio, Apple Creek was great! Enjoyed the stream and catch and release fishing. (Gambier)**

~**Just love to catch fish. This little creek is great fun. (Seville)**

~**I want to thank (the city of Wooster and Trout Unlimited) for providing this fine fishing so close to home. (Strasburg)**

~**Went with my grandpa. Had a great time. (Akron)**

~**I now consider Apple Creek my home fishing stream. (Wooster)**

~**This little stream has lots of places for trout to hide. (Marshallville)**

~**Thanks for another great spot for fly fishing. (Gnadenhutten)**

~**Fish really seem happy in their new digs displaying typical rainbow looniness when hooked. Nice evening! (Granville)**



Rittman Native Is A Guide To Alaskan Fishing Adventure

The May 9 chapter meeting featured Roy Furguson and his action packed slides of fly fishing in Alaska. Roy is a native of Rittman but spent several years living in Alaska. He now resides in the greater Denver, Colorado area. For many years now, Roy has organized and hosted trips to Alaska's streams, rivers and lakes to fly fish for the many species of trout and salmon native to our most northern state.

Roy's slide show gave the audience a good feel for what these trips, often to remote areas accessible only by float plane, are really like. His pictures illustrated the many salmonoid species his guests have taken on a fly rod over the years; king salmon, silvers, chum, dolly varden, steelhead and many more. Just as spectacular were slides of the other wildlife and the scenery. There are many brown bears on the fishing grounds to see (and to watch out for). Roy arms members of his fishing party, not with guns, but plenty of bells to let the bears know you are coming! To date no one has had a bad experience. In other words Roy's guests catch plenty of fish but stay clear of the big bears.

Roy Furguson's hosted trips are a bargain compared to what most fly shops and outfitters charge. For \$1,500 to \$2,100 Roy will put you on plenty of fish in some of the most scenic countryside imaginable. These 10-15 day trips include all meals and lodging, float plane passage all rental equipment and so on. All you have to do is pay your way to Alaska and bring your fly fishing equipment. Oh, and by the way, you and your equipment should come in at 250 pounds or less. There is a surcharge if you are overweight (good time to go on a diet?).

If you are interested in joining Roy on one of his Alaskan adventures, he can be contacted by writing Roy Furguson, 1700 S. Ensenada Way, Aurora, CO. 80017.

Expand Your Steelhead Horizons

To initiate the upcoming fall steelhead season, Ohio Fly Fishing Excursions in conjunction with the Stark County Park District will be conducting both an introductory and an advanced class on tying of steelhead flies. The introductory class is scheduled to run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17. The advanced class will follow with same time format on Saturday, September 24. Both classes will be held at the Stark County Park District's Sippo Lake Marina. The cost of each class is \$55, which includes instruction along with hooks and tying materials. Fly tying equipment is required. For more information, call Ohio Fly Fishing Excursions (330-456-8731)

INTRODUCTION TO STEELHEAD FLIES

Having an ample supply of the most productive flies for your steelhead outings is essential. Experienced steelheaders will verify that one to two dozen lost flies in a day's fishing is not uncommon. Which flies are considered the most productive? Ask twenty different steelheaders what their favorite pattern is and you'll probably get twenty different answers. This creates quite a dilemma for newcomers to the sport because everyone is giving them different advice. In "Introduction to Steelhead Flies" you will tie those egg, nymph, and streamer patterns that have proven most effective in over 60 days of fishing and guiding per year for the last seven years. Scheduled for Saturday, September 17, this class will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Limited to six participants, the cost is \$55. This class will allow you to stock your fly boxes with the most productive flies for the upcoming steelhead season. For additional information, call Ohio Fly Fishing Excursions at (330) 456-8731.

ADVANCED STEELHEAD FLIES

Under prime water conditions, fly selection and hooking of steelhead can be a relatively simple process. Just about any fly within reason will get hookups if properly presented. This scenario, however, can change completely when the water becomes low and clear and the fish have experienced heavy fishing pressure. Under these less than ideal conditions, steelhead like all trout can become much more selective. Your standard "go-to" patterns will become less effective. This is the time to "match the hatch" or fish fly patterns that imitate the natural organisms inhabiting the water you fish.

Over the past several years, we have been sampling the aquatic invertebrates that are native to steelhead streams flowing into Lake Erie. In "Advanced Steelhead Flies" you will study preserved specimens of the aquatic organisms most abundant in the Lake Erie tributaries and tie patterns that imitate this food source. Isn't "matching the hatch" the main criteria used in fly selection for selective stream trout, then why not "match the hatch" for selective steelhead?

"Advanced Steelhead Flies" is scheduled for Saturday, September 24 running from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost of the class will be \$55 and limited to six participants. Don't be content; expand your steelhead horizons! Knowing the aquatic invertebrates of the Lake Erie tributaries and having effective patterns to imitate them will definitely increase your success as a steelheader. For additional information, call Ohio Fly Fishing Excursions at (330) 456-8731.

Rip and Return

We Need To Hear From You

The Clear Fork Chapter wants to know how it can best serve our nearly 500 members. Please fill out the survey, tear off this page and return to Clear Fork President Skip Nault.

Rod Raffle

On the back page is an order form to purchase raffle tickets for a premium Orvis fly rod. The winner of this nine-foot, four-piece, four-weight T3 will be announced during the October 10 meeting. Raffle tickets are \$10 each, and there is no limit to the number each Clear Fork member can purchase. Tickets will be mailed to you when we receive your order. Or, you can purchase tickets during the September 12 and October 10 meetings.

Please return the survey and/or raffle ticket form to:

Skip Nault
2722 Taylor Drive
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Member Survey

Name _____

Email address (optional, but we'd sure like to have it) _____

Have you attended Chapter meetings the past year? None _____ 1-2. _____ 3 or more _____

Have you accessed our chapter website the past year? Yes _____ No _____

Have you participated in a Chapter activity (stream stocking, fly fishing) in the past year? Yes _____ No _____

To help us provide better programming, please indicate your areas of interest by checking the choices below:

- Cold water conservation educational programs and activities.
- Fly fishing and tying programs and fishing trips.
- Teaching adults and children about fly fishing and tying.
- Stream restoration and trout stocking.

Other. Please indicate here what YOU would like to see our chapter do to better serve your interests.

You can fill out this form at the Clear Fork Chapter web site: www.cfrtu.org

Rod Raffle

The Clear Fork Chapter will raffle an Orvis T3 fly rod during its October 10 meeting. The 9-foot, four-piece, four-weight beauty retails for more than \$600. Tickets are \$10 and there is no limit to the number you can purchase. **Please fill out the form below and send it along with your check to Skip Nault, 2722 Taylor Drive, Wooster, Ohio, 44691. Checks should be payable to Clear Fork Chapter Trout Unlimited.** Raffle tickets will be mailed to you prior to the meeting. Tickets will be for sale during the September 12 and October 10 meetings.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Tickets _____ Check Amount _____ Check No. _____

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.

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Your Articles, Photos Welcomed

We welcome submissions to the Clear Water Journal.

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Clear Water Journal

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