



Clear Water Journal

The Official Newsletter of the Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited

March 2003

<http://www.cfrtu.org>

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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 115,000 members dedicated to "protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."

We welcome your comments and submissions:

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Current membership -408*

Proposed Hunting & Fishing License Cost

The Ohio Division of Wildlife has proposed an increase in the cost of hunting and fishing licenses starting in 2004. This would be the first increase in 10 years, and the longest period ever without an increase.

There has been a lot of publicity about the tax increases that Governor Taft is requesting, but this is not one of them. This increase is being requested by the Division of Wildlife to cover their operating cost, to fund projects, and keep the fish hatcheries operating. The increase would be \$4.00 on each fishing and hunting license, deer, turkey and fur takers permits, and wetland habitat stamp. Also, an increase of \$2.00 on youth hunting and fur taker permits.

The DOW, in an attempt to save money, has already cut their personnel and motor vehicle fleet by 10%. The London Fish Hatchery, where the brown trout are raised, is in serious need of repair. All the hatcheries have a high operating cost, but with these hatcheries, the DOW is able to stock 10 million fish a year in Ohio's lakes and streams!

The free senior fishing and hunting licenses may also be a thing of the past, except those already receiving these licenses. Those just now reaching the age of 66 will receive licenses at the youth license rate. The senior licenses were started years ago at the request of the state legislators to gain the support of the older voter. In exchange for the free

licenses, the legislators reimbursed the DOW for the cost of these licenses from the general fund. With the financial crisis the state is in, the legislators have reportedly cut off this reimbursement. That was a loss of \$5.2 million. The DOW also receives money from the federal government at a rate based on the number of licenses they actually sell, and not give away, so they take a double hit on the free licenses.

While no one likes to see taxes and costs rise, it is certainly in the best interest of the Ohio sportsman to support this increase in fees.

Spring Outing To Oil Creek

It's that time again. We had considered some different locations for our spring outing, but then we had an offer from a local fly fishing club (Keystone Fly Fishers) in Oil City for a get together with them. The way it looks, they will be joining us Friday or Saturday evening for our usual cookout, and we will have a chance to fish with some of them. Sounds like a good way to get to see some new water. We don't really expect them to take us to the best places in Pennsylvania, but I'm sure we will find some good fishing. This is still in the planning stage, but looks like it will happen.

The dates have been set for May 16, 17 and 18, 2003. For those that may not have made this trip before, the format is very simple. Come as you can and fish. Most of our members

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stay at the Oil Creek Camp Resort Campground (1-800-395-2045 for reservations). 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, but this year we will have the company of the local fly fishing club. This is nothing formal, just a good relaxing time. Feel free to bring the wife, 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. Hope to see you there.

Chapter Steelhead Outing

The Chapter is again going to try and have a spring steelhead outing. The date has been set for Saturday, March 15, 2003 at Daniels Park on the Chagrin River. The plan is to meet at the parking lot by the dam at 8AM and then hit the river. Since we will probably not be the only ones there, we thought our members may be easier to find if we park on the west side of the parking lot by the restrooms. Trying to schedule a steelhead outing this far in advance in the spring is tricky at best. We just cannot predict the stream conditions as we organize this. This is

the Saturday after our March meeting, so maybe we will know more by then. If you have questions feel free to call Tony at 330-264-8286.

WATER QUALITY ACTIONS: by Don Bearden

Cuyahoga Falls officials and the Executive Director of the Summit County Metro Parks can no longer claim that they are unaware of sewage pollution in the gorge near the dam and in the downtown. This chronic problem was discussed at our member meeting and written up in our news letter. It was then discussed in a joint meeting with CSO Citizen Committee and the Lock11 citizen committee. The Lock 11 Director visited the areas, and we suspect, not just storm water sewer overflows from CSOS, but sewerage from SOS.

Steve DeBord, Lock11 Director filed a complaint with the Ohio and Federal EPA, as well as the US Justice Department, "It was a foul smelling discharge 25 feet wide and up to a quarter mile long." Another member of the Citizen CSO Committee, Mary Grimmett Trent of the Falls, requested a health consultation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. This was untreated sewage and it's illegal. The writer attended the North East Ohio Watershed Council, Quarterly Meeting at which plans were discussed for citizen monitoring of streams and wetlands. The public agencies need help in identifying likely sites to monitor on streams and wetlands including temporary pools, "Vernal Pools," that seem with lie in the Spring but then may dry out later in the year but

come back next Spring. In Ohio, we have lost approximately 90% of our wet lands largely due to development, and we need these "Vernal Pools." Let me know of any sites or if you would like to volunteer to help monitor. The sites may be on public land or on your own property. I can be reached at 330.336.5357 or via email at dbearden@neo.rr.com. See you at the Wooster park cleanup, Sat. May 1st, along Apple Creek.

Chapter Web Site

As everyone knows, the internet has grown and evolved drastically since the chapter and its first web site made their introduction almost 6 years ago. We have recently done a redesign of the site to further fit the needs of the chapter. We are back at www.cfrtu.org and have added new features, along with a new look.

First and foremost, you will now be able to maintain your own email address so you can receive your newsletter via email. In the past, we were manually maintaining the listing, and there were problems with incorrect email addresses and members getting their email information in the listing. Now, members can log onto the site with their Member ID and maintain their email address. Look for the "Email List" link under the "Members Only" heading on the left side of the site.

When you log onto the website, you can also participate in threaded discussions, a great way for chapter members to communicate between chapter meetings. To access this feature, click on "Discussion Boards", also under the "Members Only" section of the website.

In order to log onto the website, click on the Member Login link on the upper right hand side of the website.

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You will need your TU Member id, which can be found on the label of this newsletter or in the email that you received. It is also available on your TU membership card or a recent copy of Trout magazine from TU.

Meeting Agenda

March 10, 2003. We will hold our usual short business meeting, and then have Rick Davis from Wolf Creek Trout Club present a program on the creation of the trout club and its operation. As most know, Wolf Creek is located just a short distance southwest of Millersburg and offers some great angling for brown, rainbow and brook trout. This is a private club, but we understand it is possible to obtain day passes to this facility. Rick will bring information sheets and some great posters showing the layout of the club. This should be very good, and we hope to see you there.

April 14, 2003. We thought we would try another one of the swap/sell activities at this meeting. If you have equipment you are not using, extra flies you have been tying, extra fly tying material, etc, bring it to the meeting and offer it for sale or trade.

Everyone has extra gear, so this will be a good chance to find it a good home.

May 12, 2003. In preparation for our Spring outing to Oil Creek, Pennsylvania the following weekend, we will tie flies for the trip. If you plan on

attending the outing, this will be a great opportunity to make your final plans and preparations. There always seems to be a few flies to pass out to those that do not tie.

Coming Events

March 8 & 9, 2003. 25th Annual Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition. This is a good one! It is held at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI (west side of Detroit). Hours are Saturday 10AM to 7PM and Sunday 10AM to 4PM. Featured speakers include Gary Borger, Jack Gartside (this guy is a hoot!), John Valk, Bear Andrews and Joe Penich.

March 10, 2003. Clear Fork River Chapter meeting at 7PM.

March 29, 2003. The last of the free fly tying get-togethers at the Getaway for the year. Starts at 12 Noon.

April 14, 2003. Clear Fork River Chapter meeting at 7PM.

April 26, 2003. The Getaway will hold their 8th consecutive Mohican Trout School. The class room work and practice will be conducted this day, with the second day, the actual fishing, will be scheduled at the participant's convenience. Cost is \$200.00.

May 3, May 31 & June 7, 2003. The Getaway will be offering three one day beginning fly fishing classes. The classes run from 8AM-4PM and cost \$50.00.

May 12, 2003. Clear Fork River Chapter meeting at 7PM.

May 16-18, 2003. Annual Chapter outing to Oil Creek, Pennsylvania.

June 21, 2003. On-stream entomology seminar. A class to give you the basic knowledge of aquatic insects. Class runs from 8AM to 4PM. Cost is \$50.00 Call 330-456-8731 for more information.



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