



Founded 1983, we are an award-winning chapter of Trout Unlimited:  
1989 Gold Trout Award, Best TU Chapter in the World;  
1990 Silver Trout Award, Best TU Chapter in the Northeast U.S.,  
Best Chapter in Pennsylvania and Best National Membership Increase;  
1992 and 2005 Sam Slaymaker Award, "The Gusher" newsletter  
recognized as the Best Chapter Newsletter in Pennsylvania



# THE OIL CREEK GUSHER

The newsletter of the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited #424 • www.oilcreektu.org • Winter Issue 2007

*CELEBRATING OUR SILVER YEAR!*

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET MARCH 31

Do you remember "way back" to 1983, when the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited was founded? Even if you were a "babe in arms" 25 years ago, if you are interested in the Oil Creek Chapter, trout fishing and coldwater resource conservation or if you just want to have a great dinner and chances on some great prizes, you'll want to attend our gala Silver Anniversary celebration banquet.

The date is **Saturday, March 31**. Cost remains at \$30 per person and \$15 for children under 12. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour and dinner is served at 7 p.m.

The biggest change this year is that we have had to move the venue of our banquet, but we haven't moved far. We'll be at the **Quality Inn at Franklin**, on Liberty Street. This is literally just across the road from our former location. Due to the Franklin Club's current tentative situation and uncertainty of its being able to be open for our event, we have moved the banquet to the Quality Inn.

The Quality Inn promises a great buffet, plus we'll have a larger room for our event, the display of prizes and more space for games. Plentiful parking will be available at the Inn. Attendees can reach the second floor banquet room via elevator or stairs.

\* \* \*

**Inside you'll find a clip & mail form to fill out to send for your banquet tickets. To qualify for the Early Bird Drawing, your request for tickets must be postmarked by March 17.**

**Remember, purchase a full table of 8 banquet tickets and you get \$100 worth of banquet-night raffle tickets, FREE!**



### *Special Silver Anniversary Raffle*

To kick off our 25th anniversary, we're having a special raffle of extra-special prizes. The prizes will be drawn at the March 31 banquet, but you need not be present to win. Tickets cost \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The more you buy, the better chance you have to win -- 1,000 tickets will be sold.

Here is a rundown of the prizes:

-- Old Town Dirigo Angler 14-ft. Kayak (above) and Accessories, sponsored by Edward Jones Investments and Wiegler Brothers Marine;

-- Coleman Family-size Dome Tent, donated by OCTU;

(continued on back page)

### **OCTU Meetings, Events & Programs**

**February 17:** Chapter fly-tying classes begin (6 sessions, through March 24). See back page.

**February 21:** Monthly meeting. Program: Trout in the Classroom; local teachers' experiences.

**February 24:** Chapter Open House at the Venango Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs Landowner Appreciation Dinner & Sportsmen's Night Out, Rocky Grove Fire Hall. See page 3.

**March 17:** Early Bird Drawing Deadline. Last date to send for your banquet tickets to qualify for inclusion in the Early Bird Drawing. See info this page.

**March 21:** Monthly meeting. Program: RATTLESNAKES! Not live, but photos and a presentation by Bob Hazlett and Pa. Fish and Boat Commission WCO Mark Kerr.

**March 31:** Chapter's Silver Anniversary Banquet. Come help us celebrate 25 years of working locally for trout fishing and coldwater conservation. Anniversary raffle drawn. Info this page.

**April 14:** Regular trout season begins (opens March 31 in selected southeastern Pa. counties)



**Oil Creek Chapter  
of Trout Unlimited  
Chapter # 424**

P.O. Box 366  
Franklin, PA16323  
info@oilcreektu.org  
www.oilcreektu.org

**President:** Bob Steiner, 814-374-4759,  
linstein@galacticis.com  
**Vice President:** Don Wilson, 814-374-4194 (no e-mail)  
**Secretary:** Linda Steiner (see Pres. listing)  
**Treasurer:** Linda Wilson, 814-374-4194 (no e-mail)

**Directors:**

Dennis Beaver, 814-676-6564, beavers@csonline.net  
Bill Huber, 814-677-8802 (no e-mail)  
Vaughn MacGregor, 724-376-2456,  
mac4067@certainty.net  
Dan Rockwell, 814-432-8498,  
debrarockwell@hotmail.com  
Scott Wilson, 814-673-3528, canon1@usachoice.net  
Pete Straub, 814-676-2315, straubpv@aol.com  
Tom Young, 814-437-5550, tandeyoung@csonline.net

**Current Chapter Projects / Project Leaders:**

(contact info above unless otherwise listed)  
**Banquet – Scott Wilson (Kim Wilson, Admin. Ass't)**  
**Dirt & Gravel Roads – Tom Young**  
**Education – Ron DeWoody, 814-437-2028 and  
Ed Atts, 814-425-3622**  
**Financial Audit/Budget – Linda Wilson**  
**Library Subscriptions – Scott Wilson**  
**Litter Pickup – Tom & Elaine Young**  
**Membership Development -- John Wood**  
**Newsletter – Linda Steiner, Scott Wilson**  
**Oil Creek State Park Projects: Dennis Beaver**  
**Open House – Regis Senko, 814-677-5080**  
**PATU NW Region VP - Scott Wilson**  
**PFSC Delegate – Vaughn MacGregor**  
**Polk Center Earth Day -- Vaughn MacGregor**  
**P.R./Website – Linda Steiner / Scott Wilson**  
**South Sandy Crk. Restoration – Lance Bowes (below)**  
**Trout in the Classroom -- Lance Bowes, at  
Venango Conservation District, 676-2832**  
**Trout Stocking – Bill Huber, Tom Young**  
**Youth Field Day – Regis Senko, 814-677-5080**

**Winners of “You Attend, You Win” drawing**

In the “You Attend, You Win” meeting attendance incentive drawings, **Dan Rockwell’s** name was drawn for November, **Ed Atts** was drawn for December and “**Lucky Dan**” **Rockwell** won for January, again. They each won a \$10 gas (gift) card at Sheetz. This new drawing rewards members who attend our meetings. Someone at each chapter meeting will go home with a \$10 gas card, as a thank-you and encouragement for attending.

**New officers and directors elected**

At the November meeting, the chapter held election of officers. In the absence of additional candidates from the floor, the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, which was chaired by Tom Young, was unanimously adopted. Your new officers and directors are at left. The chapter now has a full complement of directors (six), with the addition of Dan Rockwell. Longtime secretary Vaughn MacGregor accepted a position on the board, filling the unexpired term of Bob Steiner, who is the new president. Linda Steiner stepped into the secretary position. Scott Wilson and Bill Huber Jr. were renewed for their expired terms. Director terms are three years. Officers are elected yearly.



**Embrace-A-Stream application  
filed for East Branch project**

The chapter met the mid-December filing deadline to apply to national Trout Unlimited for an Embrace-A-Stream grant to help fund stream improvement and bank stabilization on the East Branch of Sugar Creek, north of Dempseytown. A section of the stream is eroding toward the roadway. It has destabilized a bank and there is little fish habitat in that area. We applied last year for funding, but did not make the final allocation (hey, it’s a big country). We talked with our regional E-A-S representative and reworked and updated the application. We asked for \$7,500 to help do this project, which would be in cooperation with the Venango Conservation District and the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program, the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission, Pa. Game Commission (landowner) and Oakland Township. Although the road problems will be taken care of in any case, the money we’re asking national TU for would add about a dozen instream habitat devices, mostly rock and log structures. It would be a shame to miss this great opportunity for the East Branch of Sugar Creek. We should hear in February whether national TU says yes or no.



**Chapter offers scholarship to Rivers Camp**

OCTU is again offering a \$275 (full-cost) scholarship for a young person, age 14 - 17, to attend the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp at Allenberry Resort, Cumberland County, Pa., June 17 - 22. The camp is presented by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. It features classes and programs by experts in the field of coldwater conservation and trout fishing. Recent OCTU scholarship recipients include Sarah and Jenny Senko and Jared Schwab, who would be glad to talk with potential applicants about their experience. Deadline to apply for the scholarship is to postmark the application to the OCTU address (at left) by January 31. Visit www.riverscamp.com to print out an application and for more information. The scholarship recipient is responsible for his/her own transportation to/from the camp and incidentals.

## Chapter Open House February 24, with county sportsmen's event

Saturday, February 24 is the date of the Oil Creek Chapter's Open House, at the Venango County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs' Landowner Appreciation Dinner and Sportsmen's Night Out. The event will begin at 2:30 p.m., when area sportsmen, sportswomen and conservationists and their friends and families are invited (free of charge) to the Rocky Grove Fire Hall for displays and open houses by local outdoors-related groups, including OCTU.

Chapter members will host fly-tying demonstrations and hands-on experience for the public, as well as being there to man our display. Contact Regis Senko, who is coordinating the OCTU open house, at 814-677-5080 if you can help.

The open house portion of the day will end at 5 p.m., and doors will then be open only to dinner ticket holders. The dinner and other evening festivities are held to honor landowners who keep their properties open to public hunting and fishing and other outdoor recreations. The event is also a general "sportsmen's night out," where attendees can gather to socialize, recognize our landowner hosts and enjoy the evening's program and door prizes.

This year's presentation will be by Dr. John Karian, acclaimed nature photographer. Dr. Karian's photos of lo-

cal natural scenes, particularly along the Allegheny River and other streams and lakes, are featured in his books, "Allegheny Waterway and Wetland Splendors" and "Allegheny Wetland Splendors: Up Close." Dr. Karian will give us a "feast for the eyes" after dinner and have his books and photographic prints there, if you wish to make a purchase.

We'll also welcome Rocco Ali, State President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, who is making the trip here especially to be with fellow PFSCers and other sportsmen and to honor landowners.

Tickets for the dinner are \$12; choice is chicken or beef (please specify when ordering). Order tickets from Bill Brandon at 814-437-3764, Bob Steiner at 814-374-4759, or Vaughn MacGregor, 724-376-2456.

The chapter allocated up to \$400 for tickets to the dinner/program to be given to our stream landowner hosts, and Pa. Fish and Boat Commission Venango County Waterways Conservation Officer Mark Kerr is compiling a list. If you are aware of any landowners that the chapter should thank by inviting them to the dinner, please let Bob know (for the list merge). Let's go all-out to show our appreciation to those who make our sport possible.



### Trout are in local classrooms again

Teachers Mike Crocker at Oil City High School, Pete Lindey at Venango Technology Center and Eric Mowrey and Mike Reynolds in the Titusville Middle School are once again taking part in the Trout in the Classroom Program, for the 2006-07 school year. Rainbow trout eggs were provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; program assistance by Lance Bowes of the Venango Conservation; and financial assistance (\$1,000) from OCTU.



### "Splendor" of local streams & lakes at January meeting

A crowd of nearly three dozen enjoyed Dr. John Karian's photographic presentation at the January 17 chapter meeting (thanks, John!). Dr. Karian's photographs showed the unexpected beauty of local streams and lakes and what lives along them. If you missed the program, Dr. Karian will also be at the February 24 sportsmen's dinner (above).

**Please accept my reservation for the March 31, 2007  
SILVER ANNIVERSARY BANQUET  
of the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
(and sign me up as a new member of TU, on reverse side \_\_\_\_\_)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of adults** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$30/ea. = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of children** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$15/ea. = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed (check or M.O. payable to OCTU) = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**or Visa/MasterCard #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: OCTU, P.O. Box 366, Franklin, PA 16323**

**Orders received before 3/17/07 qualify for the Early Bird Drawing!**



**PennDot open house to show plans for new bridge over Sugar Creek, Jan. 30**

PennDOT will hold a second open house public meeting on its plans regarding the new bridge over Sugar Creek, in Cooperstown, on January 30, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Cooperstown Volunteer Fire Hall. The meeting's purpose is to update the public on the bridge siting and construction and to seek input on any issues involving the bridge replacement.

The Oil Creek Chapter has been monitoring PennDOT's plans to replace the old bridge over Sugar Creek on Route 427. Our concerns are that angling access to this popular fishing spot be maintained or, possibly, enhanced and that the stream will not be degraded with the construction or the final bridge siting.

PennDOT, with Christine Boyer-Krantz as the Project Manager, has been very responsive to OCTU's concerns. Chapter members attended the state transportation department's first public open house last year and a follow-up meeting with PennDOT representatives and engineers to review the siting plans for the new bridge.

From what chapter members have heard so far, it appears that the new bridge will be constructed with the entrance (heading north) just slightly downstream of the current bridge. Angler parking will likely be expanded and improved, including a graveled parking area. The stream bottom will remain intact and natural in the area of the new bridge. A detour will be in place about a week, while the old bridge is demolished and the new one is tied in.

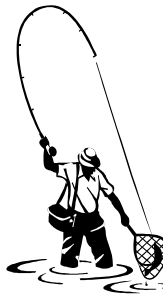
**Friends of Oil Creek State Park plans priorities; OCTU can have input**

A committee of the Friends of Oil Creek State Park met on January 18, to develop a list and prioritize projects at the park. This will facilitate fund-raising and focus on park priorities. If OCTU wants to have input into projects at the park, we should submit requests to the Friends by their February 1 board meeting.

The Boughton Bridge rebuilding project has been awarded. Construction is to begin in the spring. Shingledecker Welding was awarded the \$294,000 contract.

The full-moon snowshoe hike was postponed to February 2. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Ski Hut, providing there is any significant amount of snow by then.

The Friends agreed to assist with the restoration of the Francis McClintock grave in Petroleum Center cemetery. Since this is an historical site, approval of any restoration work must come from Harrisburg. -- Dennis Beaver



**Cast Off**

*Flailing, flinging, finessing.  
It doesn't really matter which.  
Just be casting.*

*Alert to water,  
Its colors,  
reflections,  
sounds,  
flows,  
as it tugs at your boots,  
pushing,  
pulling,  
pulsating,  
eroding the sand  
from under your boots.*

*No computers, TVs, cell phones,  
din of traffic,  
office bickering,  
strife or confusion.*

*Cast off!  
For an hour,  
A day,  
A week,  
A lifetime.*

*Flailing, flinging, finessing.  
It doesn't really matter which.  
Just be casting.*

-- The Phantom Phish Poet

**YES, I WANT TO BECOME A PART OF TROUT UNLIMITED**  
and join the Oil Creek Chapter #424.  
Sign me up for membership at the special rate of  
**FIRST YEAR FOR HALF PRICE.**  
just \$17.50. I'll get all the great benefits of being part of TU!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_


City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to:  
OCTU, POB 366, Franklin, PA 16323.  
\$17.50 check/money order to Trout Unlimited

\_\_\_\_\_ Also send me the banquet tickets I've indicated on the reverse side






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**Contact: VAUGHN MacGREGOR**  
**Chapter and County Delegate**  
**724-376-2456; mac4067@certainty.net**

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The Northwest Division meeting was held on Dec. 10. Tom Tarkowski, Assistant Supervisor for the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission, Northwest Region, reviewed the new automated system for fishing licenses. He showed some samples of the new licenses, which are yellow.

Tarkowski noted there will be two trout opening days this spring (March 31 and April 14), the earlier date being for some southeastern areas of the state. He also discussed the VHS virus, which has killed fish of some species in Lake Erie. This will probably result in the ban of transport of emerald shiners from Lake Erie.

The DEP representative said that Growing Greener funded 153 projects in 2006. Locally, \$75,000 went for stream bank erosion on Sugar Creek and \$72,000 went to Crawford County, also to alleviate stream bank erosion. High school students will be working on bank stabilization there. Also, no new discharges by Washington Township will be allowed into Edinboro Lake.

There was a discussion at the meeting concerning the U.S. Coast Guard's proposed live-fire training on Lake Erie. Since the meeting, the Coast Guard withdrew its proposal for live-fire training on the Great Lakes.

The Venango Co. Federation paid the PFSC dues for both clubs in the county that belong to the federation, the Rainbow Bowmen and OCTU. This is a savings of \$300 to OCTU, which can be put to other chapter projects.




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**Contact: LANCE BOWES**  
**Watershed Specialist/814-676-2832**  
**lbowes@cescowildblue.com**

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At this point, the District has received Two Growing Greener I grants to do stream bank stabilization work. One is on Sugar Creek in Wyattville and the other on Lower Two Mile Run in Cranberry Township. The grant for Sugar Creek was applied for directly by the district and includes multiple partners: Venango Conservation District, PennDOT, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pa. Fish and Boat Commission, Cooperstown Sand and Gravel, Venango PaSEC, PennSoil RC&D, DCNR Bureau of Forestry and the Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The grant for Lower Two Mile was applied for by the Izaak Walton League of Oil City using the district as their sponsor.

We also received a 319 Non-point Source Management Program grant, which is federal monies that are run through the DEP. This grant will be for the assessment and the creation of an implementation plan to address TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Load) on South Sandy Creek. This grant was applied for by the South Sandy Creek Watershed Association, also using the Venango Conservation District as their sponsor.

*-- Lance Bowes*




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**Contact: SCOTT WILSON**  
**Northwest Region VP**  
**814-673-3528; canon1@usachoice.net**

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The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited held its winter ExComm meeting on January 13.

Due to other commitments, I was not able to be there. You'll be reading about PATU's activities in the spring issue of the Pennsylvania TROUT newsletter. Meanwhile, please visit their web site at [www.patrount.org](http://www.patrount.org).




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**Venango County Waterways**  
**Conservation Officer**  
**MARK KERR**  
**To contact the Pennsylvania Fish**  
**and Boat Commission Northwest**  
**Region Office, 814-337-0444**

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Anticipated preseason stocking dates for local trout streams are Sugar Creek, March 2 and (in Crawford Co.) March 30; East Branch Sugar Creek, March 13; Little Sugar Creek, March 27; Prather Creek, March 13; Oil Creek, March 14 (both DHALO areas) and April 2 (area between DHALO areas); Little Sandy Creek, March 19 (including FFO area); Sandy Creek, (upper) March 20 and (from Polk, downstream) April 5; Twomile runs, Upper and Lower, March 28; Pithole and West Pithole creeks, April 10; Pine Run, Mill Creek and Little Scrubgrass creeks, April 11; and Justus Lake, April 5. These are subject to change. Watch local papers or visit [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us).

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**Contact: MARC RICKARD, Conservation District Manager**  
**814-676-2832; mrickard@cescowildblue.com**  
**VCD Web site: [www.venangocd.org](http://www.venangocd.org)**

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A quick recap of the Dirt and Gravel Roads program since the beginning (2000) is that we have done 41 projects with local municipalities, totaling about \$618,000. All of this directly improved water quality by reducing or eliminating sediment discharges to Venango County waterways. For example, a drive around the Polk area after the flooding in August found that the projects held up quite well, meaning less sediment discharges to Little Sandy Creek.

What's coming up? A new assessment of dirt and gravel roads in the county. The last assessment was in 2000. We have learned a lot through this program in seven years. We also realize we may have missed a few things the first time around. The next two years will entail driving all the dirt roads in the county and reevaluating the potential impacts to water quality from road runoff. This may include adding new sites, expanding existing sites, or removing sites (i.e. tar and chipped). This project will result in a more complete inventory, tracked through GIS, and be added to other efforts across the entire state. It will also be a good tool when trying to obtain increased funding. *-- Marc Rickard*

## PARTY, PARTY!

Chapter members and friends and relatives shared an enjoyable time at the December chapter Christmas party (photos top right and bottom left).



At left, longtime chapter secretary and new director Vaughn MacGregor is a jazz and blues saxophonist in his “other” life. He is seen here playing recently at the Brother Bean Coffeehouse in Seneca.



Photos by Linda and Bob Steiner

Above, that’s not Harry Potter in the wizard hat, that’s new president Bob Steiner, handing out the December meeting materials.

*OCTU-logo ballcaps with special anniversary imprint to be available soon (make sure we have your e-mail address)*



**Get a shirt, pull-over, jacket, fishing vest, hat or other garment embroidered with the OCTU logo at these local vendors ...**

**Sportsworld**  
1276 Liberty St.  
Franklin, PA  
814-437-7623

**Stitch’n To Go**  
2525 Patchel Run Rd.  
Franklin, PA  
814-374-5092

**Lewis Custom Embroidery**  
E. State Rd., Seneca, PA  
814-676-1333

*Whether you choose multi-color embroidery or classic black, you can now get the chapter’s unique logo sewn on a favorite clothing item or purchase a garment from the vendor (wide variety of styles are available). You can opt for the logo embroidered small size over a breast pocket on a shirt or jacket, or have it embroidered larger (and shout you’re a member) on front or back. It’s your choice! Contact the vendor for pricing.*

## 2 TROUT OPENING DAYS THIS YEAR

Southern Pennsylvania trout fishermen have been complaining for years that their season is just too short. With the start of regular trout fishing traditionally not until mid-April, many trout waters in that area of the state become too warm, too quickly. This shortens the time that southern region streams can provide fishing sport for stocked trout.

Last year the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission moved to establish two opening days for 2007. These are a mid-April date for most of the state (April 14) and a two-weeks earlier, March 31, opening day for selected south-eastern and southcentral counties: Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York.

We know you will be at the OCTU banquet on Saturday, March 31, but you have April 1 - 13 to travel south for additional trout fishing sport. And then come back home to fish on the "other" opening day here, April 14.

### OPENING DAY ANGLER COURTESY

Many of us enjoy fly fishing, but to opening day bait and lure fishermen, fly anglers are not always a welcome sight on already-crowded creeks. This partly deserved criticism comes from some fly rodders' casting in the traditional long-line, fore-and-aft manner. This practice uses up stream space and requires a wider berth than most opening day anglers can or will provide.

Fly fishermen can help correct the problem by limiting the length of their back casts, keeping them high, and eliminating false casts, if possible. Instead, "lift and flip" the fly upstream without back-casting or use a roll cast, which keeps the line always in front and in a narrow lane.

Fly fisherman can also better share opening day streams if they leave the deep, slow-moving holes to the bait and lure anglers. Flies are rarely effective there anyway. Instead, opening day fly anglers should try plumbing runs, pocket-water and riffles, where trout may be feeding actively.

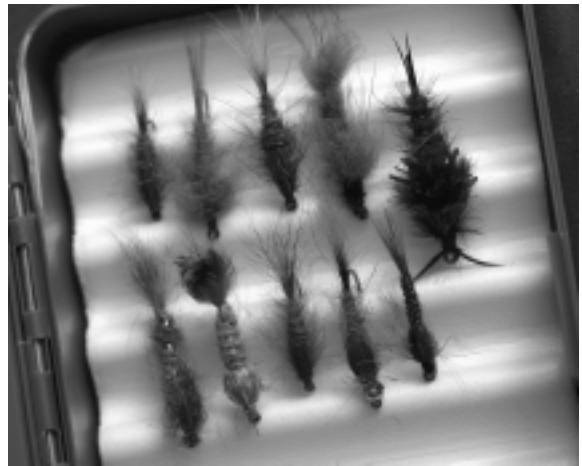
And, remember, sacrificing a fly and tippet to a snag, rather than wading in front of other anglers to retrieve them, is always good fishing manners.

### SUGGESTED FLIES FOR OPENING DAY

The most effective flies for opening day are almost always underwater offerings, rather than topwater.

Streamers come into their own on opening day, either weighted or unweighted. Proven streamers include the clipped-deer-hair-headed Muddler Minnow, to give trout something they can really chew on; the bucktail Royal Coachman, whose white calf or deer-tail wing is visible to fish in "off-color" water; and the Blacknose Dace, an in-stream minnow imitation.

Along with these traditional reliables, try the sparsely dressed Clouser Minnow and the utilitarian Woolly Bugger. Both are more a fly style than a set "recipe" and can be tied in a variety of colors. The Clouser Minnow has weight built into it – its "dumbbell eyes" – and drifts hook up, mini-



*What's in your early season fly wallet? Here, nymphs.*

mizing snagging. Try white and lime green or white and yellow for extra visibility, white and black or the Brook Trout Clouser, with materials mimicking that fish's colors.

As far as Woolly Bugger colors, black, olive, brown, white and yellow are popular for this chenille-bodied, palmer-hackled, marabou-tailed generic fly. Try them in sizes big and small; both will spark strikes according to the trout's mood. For quick-sinking a Woolly Bugger, wrap the weight around the hook under the fly body, or tie on "dumbbell eyes," a metal conehead or a big beadhead.

Live mayfly and stonefly nymphs are common in April streams and a trout food staple. To imitate nymphs, choose fly patterns like the Hare's Ear, Fox Squirrel, Pheasant Tail, the impressionistic Casual Dress or other gray fur nymph, and the Black Stonefly. These are usually fished weighted, cast upstream to bump back down along the bottom, then allowed to "swim up" at the end of the drift, like the natural. Fish take them both on the "dead drift" and on the swing.

Traditional wet fly patterns have mostly been replaced by the use of nymph and emerger patterns, but can still be useful at imitating the hatching or swimming stages of mayflies, caddis and stoneflies. For opening day, try the gray-bodied, mottled-winged Dark Hendrickson or Dark Cahill, or the ginger-bodied March Brown. Other mid-water-level flies include the Woolly Worm, in black, brown, yellow or peacock herl. Brook trout seem to particularly go for the yellow-lime Green Weenie, which, like the bait-mimicking San Juan Worm, is simplicity itself to tie.

One of the best early season flies for rainbow trout is the Egg Sac, also called Sucker Spawn or Spawn Sac. The fly's little loops of yarn, usually light yellow, pink, gold or orange, imitate clusters of fish eggs. Originally a steelheader's fly, the pattern attracts trout in the habit of feeding on the eggs of other trout, as well as those of spring-run suckers. The Glow Bug, a clipped clump of brightly colored yarn fibers, is another steelheader egg sac pattern that works well on April's stocked rainbows.

A "dynamite" way to fish underwater flies is to fish two at once. A short piece (6-inch) of tippet material can be left dangling from a leader knot or tied to the bend of the first fly's hook. Tie the second fly to that piece of tippet.

**OUR CHAPTER MEETINGS**  
are held on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Wednesday of the month,  
September through May.

**Regular Meeting Schedule:**  
**Concurrent Board &  
Membership: 6:30 p.m.**  
Meet for dinner with the  
group, 5 p.m. (optional)

**Programs – 7:30 pm**  
(public is welcome, N/C)  
**Feb. 21:** Trout in the  
Classroom; come hear  
local teachers' experiences  
**March 21:** Rattlesnakes!  
Not live, but in photos and  
a presentation by Bob  
Hazlett and Pa. Fish & Boat  
Comm. WCO Mark Kerr.  
**April 21:** To be announced

**Our Meeting Place:**  
King's Family Restaurant  
(in the Community Room),  
on Route 8/62, between  
Franklin and Oil City.

**For more meeting info:**  
Call 814-374-4759  
E-mail [info@oilcreektu.org](mailto:info@oilcreektu.org)  
Visit [www.oilcreektu.org](http://www.oilcreektu.org)



## Learn to tie flies! Chapter classes begin February 17

The Oil Creek Chapter is again offering fly-tying classes for members and the general public. The course will be instructed by Scott Wilson and Bill Huber, Jr., both superbtiers. The six-session course will be on Saturday mornings, February 17 through March 24, at the Franklin Library, in Franklin. Cost is \$35 to cover materials. A complimentary Trout Unlimited membership will be given to attendees who are not yet members of TU. To sign up or for more information, call Scott Wilson at 814-673-3528. You can also visit our web site: [www.oilcreektu.org](http://www.oilcreektu.org).

### Anniversary raffle, from page 1

- Box of Hand-tied Flies, donated by OCTU fly tiers;
- Noodle Rod and Reel, donated by Seneca Outpost;
- Men's Watch, donated by J&K Jewelry (can be exchanged for ladies');
- Handmade Wooden Rod Rack, donated by Clyde's Crafts;
- Renegade Fly Rod, 8-1/2 foot, 5/6 weight line; donated by OCTU;
- \$50 Gift Card, donated by Cranberry Wal-Mart;
- Handmade Lap Blanket, donated by Suzan Senko; and

-- TU Membership and 25th Anniversary Cap, donated by OCTU.

### **Purchase your Special Silver Anniversary Raffle Tickets at these local businesses and OCTU supporters:**

Forest County Sports Center, Tionesta; Genova's Restaurant, Oil City; J & K Jewelry, Titusville; Jim's Super Market, Cooperstown; Maurer's Trading Post, Franklin; and Seneca Outpost, Seneca.

You can also purchase raffle tickets from many OCTU members and at our regular chapter meetings (see column, left), or call 814-673-3528.

**BANQUET TICKET CLIP & MAIL ORDER FORM -- PAGE 3**



**P.O. Box 366  
Franklin, PA 16323**

Check your address label.  
Has your Trout Unlimited membership expired?  
**RENEW or JOIN TODAY!**  
Unsure of your membership status? Contact OCTU.

**NEXT GUSHER DEADLINE:  
March 1, 2007**