



The Streamer - February 2009



Newsletter of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited

President's Message February 2009 - by Rich Balak

March Gala! March Gala! March Gala!

March 21, 2009 (see invitation) - Ken Lockwood Chapter's major fundraiser for the year is just a short month away. A time for all our 340+ members to pull together and support their chapter. Forget about the excuses for not attending meetings as this is your chance to meet your fellow chapter members, find out what Ken Lockwood Chapter is all about, swap fishing stories and fund the Chapter's conservation activities.

Ken Lockwood Challenge - Take the Ken Lockwood Challenge. Buy your tickets early, bring a friend, participate in our raffles, enjoy a great "all you can eat" meal, be entertained by our guest speaker and, if for any reason you feel you did not have a great time, we will refund your money...no questions asked. A deal you can't refuse!

Resources - The Ken Lockwood Chapter will be involved with the youth education programs at the Pequest Hatchery (see Bill Maxwell's article) as well as dam removal, plantings and our own stream bank stabilization projects in 2009.

Help is needed, so please get on our email list for the times and dates of these events as well as other chapter news. Send your email address to the following address and Wes Boyce will take care of the rest:

ken.lockwood.tu@att.net

See you at the Gala!

Rich Balak, President

Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.S. Remember our meetings start at 7:30 p.m. now, the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the American Legion, Route 22, Whitehouse, NJ (across from the Wal-Mart).

Inside this issue:

Editor's Correction	2
Coming Events	2
2009 Walter Scheuerer Academic Achievement Award for Environmental Studies	2
South Branch Beat	3 & 4
Pequest Hatchery Youth Education Program	4
26th Annual March Gala Dinner	5
Notes from Kamchatka	6 & 7
2009 Chapter Activity Fee and Email Address Submission Form	8
2008 - 2009 Chapter Officers and Directors	8

Editor's Correction – by Dennis Concannon

The October 2008 issue of The Streamer did not include the winners of the 2008 Spring Raffle. First place prize was awarded to Carl Koch, Long Valley, NJ; second place prize winner was William Perry of Shark River Hills, NJ; and the third place prize went to Ike Santo, Hampton, NJ

Coming Events – by Dennis Concannon

Saturday, March 21, 2009 - Annual Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited March Gala, 5:30 - 10:00 PM

26th Annual March Gala fund raising event (refer to page 5, for further details)

Saturday & Sunday, April 4th & 5th, 2009, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Division of Fish and Wildlife's Annual Open House, at the Pequest Hatchery, in Oxford, NJ. The Division has invited TU Chapters to set up tables to educate the public, guides, outfitters, artists, carvers, taxidermists, tackle shops vendors, etc. will showcase fish and fishing activities, and tables and spaces will feature vendors for a Fisherman's Flea market. Volunteers, please contact Bill Maxwell to sign up to assist with Education Pond fishing instruction activities.

Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

South Branch Watershed Association's 19th Annual Stream Clean-Up. Visit www.sbwa.org for more information or contact Nicole Rahman, Program Director, to pre-register, by Tuesday, April 15th, at 908.782.0422, ext 14. Alternately, Nicole can also be contacted by email at: nicolahman@sbwa.org.

Saturday, April 25, 2009 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

The Hunterdon County Department of parks and recreation is proud to announce their 9th Annual Earth Day Celebration scheduled for Saturday, April 25th at Deer Path Park, in Readington Township. Festivities will feature wildlife presentations, live entertainment, nature crafts, outdoor skill clinics, environmental exhibits, and more.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 - Annual KLTU Chapter Picnic, 8:30 AM - dark

For the fifth consecutive year, Bill Asdal, Proprietor of the Raritan Inn, located in Califon, on Route 513, and near the old River Styx Tavern, in conjunction with Jim Holland, Proprietor, Shannon's Fly & Tackle have extended an invitation for Annual KLTU Chapter picnic to held at the Raritan Inn. As in years past, the date selected for the picnic has been moved from June to May to take advantage of cooler water temperatures and more prolific insect hatches. KLTU Chapter members, in good standing (current national dues and \$10 chapter activity fee paid) are welcome to attend the chapter picnic.

2009 Walter Scheuerer Academic Achievement Award for Environmental Studies - by Daniel Knauer

The Directors of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited proudly announce the 2009 Walter Scheuerer Academic Achievement Award for Environmental Studies is awarded to Ms. Jennifer Fitzgerald.

Jennifer is a first year student at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, pursuing academic studies in Marine Biology.

Please join the Director's in congratulating Jennifer Fitzgerald as the recipient of the 2009 Walter Scheuerer Academic Achievement Award.



South Branch Beat - by James Holland, Proprietor, Shannon's Fly & Tackle Shop

"Fly tying is the next best thing to fishing; it is the sort of licking of the lips that eases a thirsty man through the desert."
- Arthur Ransomme "Fly Tying in Winter", *Rod and Line* 1929

Winter's long hand stretches his cold shadow across our souls. The days are short; the light is pale and fleeting and it seems that our streamside companions have left for warmer climes chasing the sun. It is a time for stories...

A good friend and talented angler, Lee Brown asked me back in June how I fished a certain pool. I was surprised because Lee has fished around the world from across North America to Russia and Tierra del Fuego for its legendary sea run Browns. Still, I said the Light Cahills were hatching and that we might have some success with the emergers at dusk, so off we went. A number of other friends were fishing close by. Lee is left handed and I'm right handed so his question was to get the right drift in a way that he could fish from the inside or left bank. I made a suggestion about where to cast and soon Lee had made a number of excellent drifts and had landed a couple of nice Rainbows on a brand new seven and half foot four weight cane built for him by master cane builder, Dennis Menscer. I thought he had the hang of it and so I left him at the pool. A short time later, Lee appeared somewhat shaken, rod in hand. He had hooked a beautiful wild Brown Trout about seventeen inches long and was preparing to photograph the fish in his net prior to release. Just at the moment he clicked the camera he heard a loud crash and there not twenty feet from him was a somewhat dazed and confused Black Bear! Needless to say, Lee left the trout and the net at the water's edge while making a hasty exit. The bear didn't run just kind of sloughed about trying to wake up. He was sleeping in the tree above us all along and we had never noticed him. For the next thirty minutes, the bear was estimated around one hundred and twenty five pounds but shortly thereafter due to collaborative storytelling (we are fishermen after all) grew to gargantuan proportions.

Many people consider fly fishing to be a solitary sport. In fly tying, I have often found quite the opposite to be true. Fly tyers aren't merely weaving a fly; they invariably explain not only why a fly works and its history but also their own experiences and why they've chosen to tie a particular pattern. It is not so much the pattern, but the endorsement of the tyer that gives us the confidence to try it for ourselves. This is why our Sunday fly tying is so enjoyable. I never know what is going to be next. Eric and George are once again hosting our Winter Fly Tying. Last year Eric carefully prepared a curriculum, students were schooled in the basic techniques, learning how to apply thread, become familiar with the tools and materials tying flies that best demonstrated the skills necessary to master the nymph, streamer or dry fly. Once they've mastered the basics it was hard to predict where they would go next whether it was learning some classic Hair-wing Atlantic Salmon flies with the aforementioned Lee Brown or exploring the use of synthetic materials with well known local master Andy Sutton of Long Valley. The unpredictability was refreshing and our students handled it with enthusiasm. I don't think they wanted the classes to end but then again it was time to go fishing with some of the creations that they had crafted and hoarded over the previous months.

As many of you will note, I have been following the story of dam removals on the Musconetcong River with interest. Brian Cowden recently gave a great presentation at our local Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited meeting on the removal of the Groendyke Dam in Hackettstown. The river is quickly in the process of restoring itself and a Bald Eagle is even using the site much to the chagrin of the local goose population! Many volunteers deserve a lot of credit for helping to plant and restore native flora to the site. Once again congratulations to the Musconetcong Watershed Association, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Division of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited for their efforts but also to K. Hovnanian Homes who donated a large amount of stone needed to stabilize stream sediments. Another small dam in Hackettstown will be removed in all likelihood this winter. The ultimate goal is to see the Musky flowing freely to its junction with the Delaware and there is progress being made not only on the Musky but also on the South Branch as well. The dam on the old Camp Morris property has been notched and will be removed. The completion of this project will stabilize stream sediments above the dam and cool the water considerably downstream. Cowden and Rick Axt, President of the New Jersey State Council of TU have been working with the state agencies and the South Branch Watershed Association led by Executive Director Bill Kibler on this project and it is thought that this effort will substantially improve habitat for a variety of wildlife including our Native Brook Trout.

Although it may seem that there is little activity on the stream, it is often quite possible to see signs of spring in January. The Early Black Stonefly, *Cappnia vernalis* will begin hatching sporadically by mid month often joined by the

(cont. on page 4)

South Branch Beat (cont.) - by James Holland, Proprietor, Shannon's Fly & Tackle Shop

the Early Brown Stonefly *Strophopteryx fasciata*. Look for daytime highs in the upper thirties to low forties and these insects will become active. Small black or brown stonefly patterns will effectively imitate the nymphs as they begin to crawl towards streamside rocks to hatch. I have often used a standard Copper John or Black Hare's Ear or Pheasant Tail nymph size 16-18 in relatively shallow water to catch fish feeding on the first nymphs of the season. The adult stoneflies don't all make it into the air without being washed into the current so it is possible to fish the dry. It is often a good idea to give some motion to these flies to make it appear that they are struggling in the surface film. The takes are not often subtle and a good way to shake off some of those winter blues. Another great winter pattern is the Starling Soft Hackle, a very simple but effective fly named for the use of starling wings for the soft hackle collar. Fish these in sizes 14-18 and swing them across and downstream for best results.

It is important to note that even in the absence of a dense hatch; there is always food in a trout stream. Midges are always present and are often preyed upon. Two important midge groups are the Chironomids and the Diptera. My best advice on midge fishing is to have an assortment of very small dries in a variety of colors. As for the subsurface imitation it can be a Disco Midge or any imitation tied with a little thread and flash; try a variety of colors, Olive, Red or Black in sizes 16-24 are probably the most popular. Add a small glass bead to simulate the air bubble many insects use to rise to the surface.

Scuds are an aquatic shrimp common to all our streams. They prefer logs and branches to hide in. My two favorite colors are Grey and Tan at this time. Of our three local species, Rainbows are most active in winter and they love scuds! Last year when the water wasn't too high, my best tandem rig consisted of a Beadhead Flashback Hare's Ear nymph size 14 and a size 16 Grey or Tan Scud as the trailing fly. I simply tie in about twenty inches of fine tippet off of the bend in the hook of the Hare's Ear. If I know Stoneflies are active, I'll replace the natural Hare's Ear with a black version or maybe even a Prince or Copper John. If the water is high and murky, it's time to fish Glo Bugs. These flies imitate fish eggs and the pattern first gained notoriety among Steelhead fishermen. As many of you know, Steelhead is an anadromous form of Rainbow Trout but unlike salmon they will feed over the winter although they spawn in the spring. Try colors like pink or yellow also know as Oregon Cheese in sizes 12-16 or even smaller. The trout love them!

We would also like to welcome veteran angler, Lenny Ruggia to our staff. On behalf of Chally, Lenny, Dan, fellow cheese head Don, and my partners Eric and George we would like to wish a safe and happy holiday season to all of you and success in the New Year!

Fly of the Month: Starling Soft Hackle by Chally Bates

Thread: Black Uni thread 6/0 or 8/0 Collar: Starling feathers Rib: None Body: Black dubbing Hook: Mustad 3906 Tail: None

Pequest Hatchery Youth Education Program - by Bill Maxwell

Well, with this new year comes the opportunity to, perhaps for the first time for some of our members, help out at the Pequest Hatchery as WCC volunteers. Volunteers are always in demand at this facility. The Pequest staff does their best to develop and promote classroom and experience programs that are helping participants develop an appreciation for the wildlife that this nation's forests, grasslands, and waterways support. As TU members, and as Ken Lockwood Chapter members particularly, we need to connect ourselves to these truly worthy efforts. Donating your time, expertise, and experience to this cause says a lot about the chapter, about the kind of people that make it their business to get involved, and the real value that's gained by stepping forward and taking on the responsibility.

I encourage you to make it your business to check out the Ken Lockwood Chapter website (<http://www.geocities.com/kenlockwoodtrout/>) or visit Pequest's own (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pequest.htm>), and take a look at the upcoming programs calendar. You will find a whole host of volunteer opportunities that are in need of the kind of support that our members can provide. To participate, all you have to do is complete the WCC forms (so you're insured) and show up! It's that simple. If you're already a volunteer, a sincere thank you is in order; if you're not one yet, I would urge you, to thoroughly consider placing yourself within this group. You will not be disappointed in the company.

26th Annual Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited March Gala Fundraising Dinner – by Dennis Concannon

The Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited cordially invites you to attend their 26th Annual Fundraising Dinner, Saturday, March 21, 2009, at the Three Bridges Volunteer Firehouse, located in Three Bridges, NJ.

Festivities begin at 5:30 PM, with a cash bar; followed by a family-style, all you can eat, roast beef and ham dinner, prepared by Maddalena's Catering Company. If you have attended previous dinners you know that an enjoyable evening awaits you.

As usual, there will be a basket raffle. Prizes will include flies tied by chapter members, fly rods constructed especially for this event, fly fishing books, reels, camping equipment, spin fishing outfits, merchandise from manufacturers such as Orvis, Penn, and Berkley, to name a few; Scott equipment donated by Shannon's Fly Tackle Shop; prizes to please every member of the family, and items to numerous to mention. Proceeds benefit the chapter's macro-invertebrate habitat preservation and stream bank stabilization activities. Dinner tickets are \$45 each and must be purchased prior to March 14th. Children under the age of two years attend at no charge. Please prepare checks payable to "Ken Lockwood T.U." and forward checks to:

Rich Balak
639 Old York Road
Neshanic Station, NJ 08853
908-782-5174

Thanks to chapter member John Boyce, who provided the introduction, this year's featured speaker is Nelson "Trapper" Collins, who will present a program on remote salmon fishing on the wild and scenic Alagnak River, located in Southeastern Alaska. Trapper's operation is known as Alaska's Alagnak Wilderness Camps & Trap (www.alagnakwildernesscamps.com). Camp accommodates twelve weekly guests, in four cover-it cabins, three bunks to a cabin, and with plenty of room to stretch out with all your gear. Of course arrangements are flexible and can be modified to accommodate couples or even additional guests, if people want more in their group. A family operation, Trapper's wife Terry, hosts "family-style" breakfasts and dinners for everyone. Guiding services are provided by Trapper and two other full-time guides. The camp maintains four boats and there are days when each one will catch 7 to 8 different species. The operation is located in the middle of some of the best fishing Alaska has to offer.

For further details access either the website (www.alagnakwildernesscamps.com) or contact Trapper at:

Alaska's Alagnak Wilderness Camps & Trap
563 Centerville Road
Pulaski, NY 13142
Phone 315-298-6655
Fax 315-298-6655

Directions:

FROM SOMERVILLE AND POINTS EAST

Three Bridges Volunteer Firehouse is approximately 9 miles south of the Somerville Circle. Take US Route 202 south, to the Three Bridges exit, at the jug handle traffic light cross over US Route 202 North, headed toward the Hess gas station, and bear to the right at the Fleet bank. The Three Bridges Volunteer Firehouse is located at 467 Main Street.

FROM FLEMINGTON, AND POINTS SOUTH

Three Bridges Volunteer Firehouse is approximately 6 miles, traveling northbound on Route 202, from the Route 202-31 traffic circle in Flemington. Take the Three Bridges exit, continue on Broad Street for roughly 300 yards, and turn left into the Three Bridges Volunteer Firehouse parking lot.

Notes From Kamchatka - by John Boyce

I first became aware of Kamchatka in the early 1990's after reading an article in the long defunct magazine, "Wild Trout and Steelhead" that was written by now retired newsman Tom Brokaw. Mr. Brokaw found his way to Russia's Far East to pursue enormous steelhead that were found in the regions many rivers. After reading that article the seed was planted in my mind that this was a place to see for myself.

The Kamchatka Peninsula lies along Russia's pacific coast, almost directly west of the Alaskan peninsula. Kamchatka is slightly larger than the state of California, but with a population of only approximately 200,000 people, of which most live in the largest city, Petropavlovsk (Petro). This allows for an incredible amount of wild country.

I met Will Blair of "The Best of Kamchatka" outfitters several years later at the Somerset Fly-fishing Show. After comparing his trips with other outfitters I chose to book with The Best of Kamchatka for a week long float trip on the No-Kill designated Two Yurt River.

I flew to Russia via Alaska over the July 4th weekend. The flight to Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka only took about 4 ½ hours from Anchorage aboard an antiquated TY-154 airliner. While taxiing along the runway at Petro, I could see many Mig-type fighters lined up in front of their blast bunkers. Kamchatka has only been open to the west since the early 90's and still has a very distinct cold war feel. After passing through immigration/customs our group boarded a bus for the shuttle to the heliport located on the opposite side of town. Although we did not see a great deal of the city, the sight of the crumbling infrastructure reinforced in my mind that there is no doubt of who won the cold war.

At the heliport we filled the cargo hold of a MI-8 helicopter with gear and flew north along the Kamchatka River valley to our refueling stop at the town of Klyuchi. Verdant green valley's lead to the birch covered slopes of the mountains.



At higher elevations above the tree line, snow remained on almost every peak. We passed over several cooled lava that still had not revegetated since the many volcanoes last eruption. Unfortunately the weather deteriorated preventing us from reaching camp in the afternoon as scheduled. We would overnight in Klyuchi.

The following day the skies cleared enabling us to have an extremely pleasant, albeit loud helicopter ride to camp,



(cont. on page 7)

Notes From Kamchatka (cont.) - by John Boyce

arriving mid-afternoon. Our camp, located about two miles downstream of Two Yurt Lake, consisted of three A-frame cabins, each with two bunks and a woodstove; an outhouse; a shower cabin, and the most important structure, a kitchen/dinning tent. It was a pleasant surprise to discover that only one other angler, Ed DiGangi, would join me on the float. We would be the first anglers on the river since the previous September.

After a late lunch Ed and I, each accompanied by a guide with rifle (we are in brown bear country) hiked upstream about a mile through clouds of mosquitoes and a maze of backwater sloughs near the outlet of the Lake. A large rainbow struck at a skated muddler on my third cast which I missed. A 14" dolly varden grabbed the fly on the next pass. A beautiful fish in spawning colors, similar to our brook trout, was a wonderful way to start the trip. An impressively thick 19" rainbow grabbed the muddler next. After landing another nice dolly from the same riffle we fished downstream toward camp. Halfway to camp the rain began to fall. Showers would continue to plague us for the balance of the trip.

The second day we began fishing around a medium size island directly in front of camp. At the base of the island where the side channel and main channel rejoin a dark undercut bank seemed a likely place for a fish to hide. Within a short time I landed a 17" rainbow; several grayling in the 14" range; too many dollies to count, the largest 14" and a ten pound male sockeye salmon in brilliant green and red spawning colors. Immediately after lunch three more rainbows came to the net, 16", 16", and 17" respectively. Many more rainbows, too numerous to count, in the 15" class were also landed. The afternoon ushered in a dry spell for me whereas I did not have any action until we reached Camp 2. Camp 2 is located in a beautiful little grove of white birch trees set high on the riverbank overlooking a long tail-out that was quite literally filled to the rim with dollies and grayling. In the last half hour before quitting a hatch began that I mimicked using both a yellow and red humpy. Twenty grayling, one 18", took the humpies. It was an amazing experience. We dubbed Camp 2 as Camp Grayling.

Day three was another great day. The humpies proved to do the trick although egg sucking leeches held their own. Camp Grayling yielded twelve grayling; one 16" dolly; and three rainbows between 16"- 19". After lunch the river yielded a trophy grayling over 20" amongst many others; four rainbows between 16"- 20" were all taken from long glides that were dotted with bright green weed beds. Every weed bed had at least one fish lying in wait, including a monster rainbow of at least 24" that broke off as it dove into the weeds. I also managed to land a 4 pound female sockeye from another deep undercut bank.

Day four greeted us with misty conditions and light drizzle. We spent the morning in the raft floating a long stretch of deep water with little room to wade. After going fishless at our first stopping point, I was pleased to land several beauties in another 3-4' deep riffle filled with weed beds. Using the humpies, egg sucking leeches and caddis, five nice fish, three grayling from 14-16" and two rainbows 17-19", were caught. Multitudes of smaller fish were also fooled by the offerings. After lunch we fished from the raft, Ed up front and me in the back.

Using a Morrish mouse, Ed landed at least five fish in the 17-19" range before I stopped counting. I landed four rainbows from 17-19" and a single 16" grayling. Unfortunately I learned that fly-casting from the back of a raft is very difficult as compared to the front. The herky-jerky motion of trying to cast a very large fly into the wind without falling overboard or hooking the two individuals accompanying me proved taxing and resulted in me snapping the upper 8" off of my rod. Luckily I had a spare.

The final day of fishing was a mousing day. I was thankful to be in the front of the raft again. We cast Morrish mice to any object sticking out of the water and the fish hit the fly like a great white hitting a seal. It was violent! We cast to every branch, root wad, rock, etc. that could be seen. It was an amazing sight to behold; watching the fly land on the surface, then create a little wake as it was stripped toward the raft. A dark shadow materialized behind and gave chase, mouth agape the fish sometimes would follow almost to the raft before striking. I have never seen trout act as such. To me it was astounding.

Kamchatka is an amazing place. The trout fishing is exceptional and if the Two Yurt is of any indication, the rivers are literally filled with fish. Getting there had been a life-long dream finally fulfilled. Yet now that I'm haunted by the sight of Kamchatka Rainbows charging deer hair mice I'm a changed man. I have begun formulating my plans to return.



The Streamer - February 2009

KILMER P&DC NJ 088



Newsletter of the Ken Lockwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited

c/o 639 Old York Road
Neshanic Station, NJ 08853



www.geocities.com/kenlockwoodtrout/



2008 Chapter Activity Fee and Email Address Submission Form

Complete email address and send form and KLTU activity fee check to:

Dan Knauer, 17 Coleman Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Fee: _____ \$10

2007-2008 Chapter Officers and Directors

Rich Balak - President, March Gala

Jerry Cook - Vice President

Dan Knauer - Treasurer

Wes Boyce - Secretary

Rick Axt - State Council

Bill Maxwell - Youth Education

Bill Silvia - Resources

Dennis Concannon - Newsletter Editor