



Clear Water Journal

September, 2020



The Official Newsletter of the Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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President's Message— Steve Slack

, What a year! The good news is that you can fly fish in a pandemic. The bad news is that you can't congregate and exchange fish stories. Although COVID-19 has impacted CFRTU through the cancellation of its 2020 spring meetings (March-May), we have had a productive year overall and have some exciting plans in place for the coming year. This includes holding our fall 2020 meetings by Zoom. Read on!

The CFRTU Executive Team (Vice President Daral Jackwood, Treasurer Renee Jackwood, Secretary and Program Director Randy Rowe, Past President Skip Nault and myself) have become proficient in doing business virtually via Zoom. Daral Jackwood is our resident Zoom guru and will plan to lead CFRTU through its Fall 2020 monthly programs using this technology as it is not feasible for us to hold our meet-

ings on-site at this time. Likely, we will also use this technology to conduct one or more Board meetings. In December, we will evaluate this approach and determine how best to meet as we move into 2021. **IMPORTANT:** To receive an invitation to the monthly Zoom meetings, you will need to send an email to cfrtu.rsvp@gmail.com. This information will be included in all meeting announcements.

Speaking of programs, Randy Rowe has worked diligently to put together an outstanding set of programs this fall. They are as follows:

September 14—Ryan Jackwood, Watershed Science and Program Director, Harpeth Conservancy, Tennessee, will speak on "Importance of River Restoration: Improving Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat".

October 12—Tom and Pam Allen, a husband and wife team both actively involved in the TU Madmen chapter in the Columbus area, will each speak with Tom addressing "Stream Restoration for Trout Habitat" and Pam discussing "Women Fly Fishing in Ohio".

November 9—Gregg and Kristine Eleftrin, another husband and wife fishing team who are members of CFRTU, will speak with Gregg covering "Foundations for Euronymphing" and Kristine will present "Fly Fishing, Family and Fun".

December 14—Ken Fry, Outdoor Skills Specialist ODNR/DOW, will present "Catching an Angler: Attracting New Fishers to Ohio Fishing".

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Chapter Meetings

Fall Meetings will all be on Zoom. See President's Message for details. All meetings will again begin at 7:15. To be included in the meeting, send email to: cfrtu.rsvp@gmail.com.

The programs for the Fall meetings are described in detail in the President's Message.

If any of you have program ideas for next year, or would be willing to speak yourself, please send a message with details to Randy Rowe using the "Contact Us" section of the CFRTU website.

Contacts/Officers:

President:
Steve Slack
4545 Huntington Woods
Wooster, OH 44691
Steven.a.slack@gmail.com

Vice President:
Daral Jackwood
807 W. Hutton
Wooster, OH 44691
jackwood.2@osu.edu

Secretary:
Randy Rowe
1239 Kieffer St

Wooster, OH 44691
rowe926@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Renee Jackwood
807 W. Hutton
Wooster, OH 44691
jackwood.2@osu.edu

Board Members:
Nick Wisda, John Weeks,
David Wiesenber, Mike Dull,
Bob McFarland, John Hanshaw
Floyd Schanbacher, Jerry
Polen, Paul Swarmer, Greg
Eleftrin

Past President: & Webmaster:
LR "Skip" Nault
bugmanosu@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor :
Nick Wisda
nwisda@hotmail.com

Mission Statement—*"To conserve, protect and restore Ohio's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."*

President's Message (Cont.)



Nice 5 lb. Rainbow taken on the Clear Fork

(Continued from page 1)

These programs focus on CFRTU priorities including stream restoration for trout habitat and attracting new fishers to fly fishing with an emphasis on women. More detail, including speaker bios and topic information, will be posted on the website (cfrtu.org) prior to meetings. All meetings will start at 7:15pm as in previous years.

We are also looking forward to stocking Apple Creek again this fall and a second time in April 2021. We are partnering with the City of Wooster for the fall stocking and have been awarded a grant through the ODNR/DOW Aquatic Education Grant program to carry out a spring stocking. The latter stocking will be part of the overall 'Learn To Fly Fish' grant proposal and will involve educational sessions both at the ODNR/DOW District III facilities in Portage Lakes as well as at Grosjean Park (Apple Creek) in Wooster. We have certainly learned to be adaptable in the last 6 months and, likely, we will need to continue in that mode for the time being. In the fall of 2019 we did both stockings and the four training sessions for new fishers. One thing we learned was that the multiple sessions encouraged fishers to obtain their own equipment, indicating a desire to continue fishing. Additionally, four of the 20 persons in the class joined CFRTU, which speaks to rela-



tionship building. We also participated in the Wounded Warriors fly fishing clinic in Castalia in November 2019, an inspirational and uplifting event, and we worked with the City of Wooster to help clean up the Apple Creek area following a flood even last July. We will bend our rods and

tighten our lines through the rest of 2020 and into 2021 to make this year as successful and productive as last year!

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about our Trout-in-the-classroom (TIC) effort led by Daral Jackwood and our financial situation covered by Renee Jackwood. In the midst of everything else occurring, TU national was also changing its operating year to an April 1 start date. I am most appreciative that Renee has kept track of both our finances as well as associated paperwork during this period. Although we have foregone revenue from our raffles due to the cancelled spring meetings, we have the offset of decreased expenses as well.

I encourage everyone to spend a few minutes navigating our website (cfrtu.org) if you have not done so recently. Skip Nault continues to add attractive features. His blogs in 2020 make for interesting reading and, knowing his keen interest in nature and the nuances of fly fishing, I think you can anticipate more articles.

FYI, Skip always encourages others to share information and would welcome articles you might like to write. We have had an impressive 2000 unique visits in the past month alone with August being one of the least active months for visits! The most visited section of the website continues to be 'Fishing Reports', however, the website is truly an interactive space and Skip fields and answers many questions here throughout the year. So, always feel free to share or post information or images of trout caught or nearby vistas!

The upcoming year will be interesting to say the least. However, it also may turn out to be one of the most pleasing in terms of what can be accomplished as well as by just providing the personal pleasure that fishing provides when you need a break from the everyday stresses of the world. Plan to make the virtual CRFTU meetings part of your monthly calendar this fall and we can all hope that 2021 will allow us to transition back to in-person meetings at some point.

My best to all of you!

Regards,
Steven A. Slack
CFRTU President

THE JIG IS UP



Typical Euro-Nymph

A style of fly-fishing is sweeping the country known as European nymphing, or euro-nymphing for short. The technique was codified by rules adopted for competition fly-fishing for trout. The rules state that an angler can't attach anything to the leader to float or sink the fly, thus no split shot and no strike indicator. In fishing competitions, euro-

nymphing consistently outperforms traditional forms of nymph fishing in numbers of fish caught.

Euro-nymphing has called for a change in hooks and flies used to fly-fish, namely jig style hooks. The hooks are barbless with a 60 to 90 degree upward bend near the hook eye. They

also have a longer, sharper, slightly curved spear point to penetrate the fish's jaw. A heavy tungsten bead gets the fly to the bottom of a stream, thus split shot are not needed. Recall that the original jig hook consisted of a lead sinker with a hook molded into it. The hook is covered by shaped silicone or rubber simu-

Trout in the Classroom

The Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program is offered statewide to Elementary, Middle and High School students. It is designed to provide these students an opportunity to participate in observing the growth of trout from the egg to fingerling stage. Fertile trout eggs are delivered to participating schools in January and the fingerlings are released into local streams in the spring. This year seven schools participated in the Clear Fork River Trout Unlimited (CFRTU) regional program. Approximately 325 fingerlings were released into the Apple Creek in March and April of 2020, which was quite an accomplishment considering most schools closed early because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students participating in the CFRTU TIC program this year ranged from sixth grade students to high school seniors. There was also a class of special needs students that participated. Through this program, students were introduced to environmental conservation concepts and the needs of aquatic organisms in their habitat. Since

water quality is critical to the rearing of trout, the students were exposed to testing for pH and nitrogenous wastes. The biochemistry of the nitrogen cycle, embryology, nutrition, and environmental ecology are all part of the TIC teaching program. The program stresses the importance of science in our lives and would not be possible without the help of the dedicated biology teachers at each of the schools, the ODNR and our Chapter volunteers.

Reported by:
Daral Jackwood,
CFRTU Vice-President



One of the students inspecting the results



Releasing fingerlings raised by students involved in the TIC program.

The Jig is Up (Cont.)

lating a worm, grub or other fish bait.

What are the advantages of jig hooks when fly-fishing? The heavy tungsten bead allows the fly to ride hook point up and is less prone to snag on rocks and woody debris on the bottom of the stream. Fish are more frequently hooked in the center or corner of upper jaw rather than the bony lower jaw. The barbless jig hooks feature a long pointed spear for improved penetration and fish holding power. Less effort is needed to set the hook with jugged hooks. Another advantage is that jig hooks are much easier to remove from a fish's mouth. Moreover, barbless jig hooks also are easier to remove from clothing and exposed skin following a wayward cast.

Many jig flies are variations of flies tied for traditional nymphing, flies such as the euro-frenchie, the jugged hare's ear nymph, the tactical copper john, and the euro-tungsten missel, a fly designed to mimic *Baetis* mayflies.

This past winter I tied a new fly pattern, the Eggstasy egg pattern. The fly is tied with a next-generation synthetic material that, when wet, looks for all the world like a gelatinous egg. The egg is tied on a #12 jig hook weighted with a silver tungsten bead. The pattern worked especially well compared to traditional egg patterns for rainbow trout stocked in Apple Creek and the lower Clear Fork River.

For the past three years, my best nymph pattern by far for catching and releasing brown trout in the upper Clear Fork River has been the remarkable aurora nymph, designed by Michigan's Dennis Potter. But like most nymph patterns, when drifting the fly on the bottom of the stream, I frequently get snagged on rocks and sunken wood. So, I tied up some aurora nymphs on #14 Fulling Mill jig hooks and gave them a try on my last

two trips to the Clear Fork. I landed 20 browns, 12 of them on the jugged barbless aurora. The jig hook lived up to its reputation, 1) rarely snagging up when drifted over rocks and wood and 2) hooking trout in the upper jaw. This limited data will need plenty more trials on the Clear Fork before I can conclusively say this is the way to go. Well, somebody has to do it!

L.R. "Skip" Nault
Past President, CFRTU



FINANCIAL UPDATES— Renee Jackwood

Income since April 1, 2020 \$ 1,500.00

Expenses since April 1, 2020 (website expenses only) \$ 244.50

Balance on hand \$ 9,842.18

Our CFRTU finances are in order. We have successfully filed all required financial statements with the State of Ohio and with the national TU office that handles the IRS filings. We have negotiated through the fiscal year transition and we are now in the midst of second quarter of the current fiscal year that runs from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. The good news – expenses have been minimal since the pandemic began. The bad news – income has been significantly impacted since our meetings have been suspended.

The bulk of our income is derived mainly from the raffles that are held at our local meetings as well as at the joint meetings with other chapters. That income source is now suspended indefinitely until we can all get back to in-person chapter meetings. The grant money that we have recently been awarded from the state is earmarked for the spring 2021 Learn to Fly Fish classes. So the fall 2020 stocking at Grosjean Park is in need of financial support from our membership.

Without raffle income, the 2020 fall stocking costs will significantly impact our fiscal stability. I would encourage all members to consider making a monetary donation to CFRTU to assist in meeting the fall stocking costs. Remember, we are a 501(3)(c) nonprofit entity. All donations are tax-deductible and I will be happy to provide a letter evidencing your donation to our chapter for tax purposes. Donations in any amount are welcomed and appreciated. Please consider sending in a donation to keep the fall stocking in our plans. Checks payable to CFRTU Chapter #667 should be mailed to me directly at 807 West Hutton Road, Wooster, OH 44691. Thank you, in advance, for your support in favor of a great fall stocking for all of us to enjoy!

Fly Tyer's Corner



HENRYVILLE SPECIAL

Hook: Standard dry fly hook, sizes 20 to 12.
Thread: Brown 8/0 (70 denier).

Body: Olive fl oss.
Body hackle: Grizzly.
Underwing: Wood duck or mallard dyed wood duck.
Wing: Gray mallard quill sections.
Hackle: Brown.

The Henryville Special is especially interesting for several reasons. Often thought of as a Catskill pattern, it was actually first tied in Pennsylvania. You will have to learn to tie on slips of mallard quill.

The Henryville Special was designed to imitate a caddisfly, but it also serves as a small stonefly.

Trout Unlimited

Steven Slack
4545 Huntington Woods
Wooster, OH 44691

Visit us on the Web at cfrtu.org

Website Updates

CHAPTER WEBSITE: Our website (cfrtu.org) has been up and running for over a year and a half now. An average of 25 to 50 people log into the site each day. We also use the site to email our messages to chapter members. It has been worth the time, effort and money to set it up for you. If you are not receiving our emails, please enter your email address and other requested information on the national TU site (tu.org). We added a new feature to the website a few months ago, "Contact Us." Here you can ask questions, make requests and so on regarding chapter activities. These reports come to me as webmaster, as do the fishing reports, and I report back as quickly as I can. Please do use this vehicle as a way to make suggestions to improve the website. Again, we need your help!

Meeting Location/Time:

CFRTU Meetings are normally held the second Monday of the month. Unless specified otherwise, we will meet in Room 130 in the Re- The monthly Meetings have been changed to virtual meetings. For more information on attending, see Page 1 of this newsletter.

search Services Building located on the OSU/OARDC campus in Wooster, at 1680 Madison Ave, south of US 30. The building is the first one to the left when you come into the main entrance to the OARDC . Meetings start promptly at 7:15 PM, but plan on arriving at 6:45 to catch up with old friends, make new ones and