



# Clear Water Journal

September, 2019



The Official Newsletter of the Clear Fork Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Inside this issue:

President's Welcome Upcoming Events	1
Apple Creek Fishery	2
Annual Meeting Stocking Apple Creek & Fly-Fishing Clinics	3
Website Update New meeting site Aurora Nymph	4

### Chapter Meetings

**Chapter Meetings: All meetings run from 7:15-9:00 pm with doors open at 6:45.**

**Sept 9**—"How to best fool a trout: designing effective fly patterns?". Skip Nault.

**Oct 14**—"Insects as trout food and models for fly tying and fishing". Skip Nault

**Nov 11**—"A Naturalists Guide to the Fishes of Ohio." Dan Rice

**Dec 9**—"Climate Change and Arboriculture: As the Earth Warms, Trees Feel the Heat." Dan Herms

**Other Upcoming Events are listed on Page 3.**

## President's Message- L.R. "Skip" Nault

### CFRTU HOME WATERS:

It has been a crazy spring and summer weather-wise this year. Record rainfall and warm weather has made for tough fishing. The Clear Fork River and Apple Creek were blown out and often too high to fish early on, but a letup in stormy weather has brought down waters to fishable levels. If you check under Fishing Reports on our website, you will find the Clear Fork River has been productive. It has been for me.

I strongly encourage that when you fish our home

waters of Apple Creek and the Clear Fork River, please report your fishing results on our website. The information reported can be helpful to the Division of Wildlife when making decisions about stocking in the Clear Fork River. Starting last year, the DOW did make a significant change. In the lower Clear Fork, below the Pleasant Hill dam, brown trout were not surviving warm summer-time water temperatures very well, so the DOW has stopped stocking this species. Instead, last fall, good-sized rainbow trout were stocked in the river that passes through the Mohican

State Park. These are trout that are produced in state hatcheries for the put-and-take program, fish that in the past were only stocked in lakes and reservoirs. This is the first time these rainbows have been stocked in an Ohio river.

We received reports from anglers fishing in the Mohican State Park that the rainbows were bigger than expected and putting up a good fight. After not having fished the lower Clear Fork for many years, I pretty much focused on the upper Clear Fork between Butler and Bellville, in late

*(Continued on page 2)*

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

## President's Message (Continued from First Page)



Nice Brown taken on the Clear fork

(Continued from page 1)

May, I headed for the Park along with Randy Rowe, our TU secretary. I was literally blown away. We each caught and released 4 rainbows and lost several more. The fish I landed were in the 14 to 16-inch-long range, and they were strong fighters. All the fish were jumpers, one leaving the water 9 times trying to throw the hook. Some rainbows that used this approach, threw off my flies. That was fun! I do not know if these fish survived the warmer tempera-

tures of July and August, but if not, the state will be stocking another batch of rainbows this October. I will be back to fish in the Park this Fall.

I have been disappointed that more of our chapter members and others fishing our home waters have not posted their Fishing Reports on our website. When asked why not, the most common answer I get is that too many other anglers will fish and crowd the stream, occupying their favorite stretches. I can tell you this, regarding the up-

per Clear Fork, this is not the case. More often than not, this year and in years past, I find no other anglers fishing the river. The DOW stocks more than 9 miles of the River, so there is plenty of space for dozens of trout fishers to fish the stream at the same time.



Wading the lower Clear fork



## Apple Creek Fishery



"You catch me, you throw me back. You catch me, you throw me back. Dude, get a life!"

Apple Creek is a different story. CFRTU stocks just over a one mile stretch in Grosjean Park in the fall, but there are multiple holes and runs where the nearly 1,000 stocked rainbows and browns will hold out. When we have our fall fishing clinics, we take up to 2 dozen novice anglers on the creek at the same time, and there is still plenty of space for everyone to catch fish. We use the Fishing Reports from our website to make decisions stocking the stream.

In the first 7 years we stocked Apple Creek, we stocked once in the spring and once in the fall. Then, upon advice from the DOW, we made the decision to discontinue the spring stocking and stock twice in the fall, in October and again in November. Should we go back to stocking in the spring and fall? Or if we can afford it, should we stock twice in the fall and once in the spring? And how many and what size fish should we stock? The

log of fishing reports on our website, will help us make these decisions. We need your help!



Trees and debris piled up along Apple Creek after July flood.

## *CFRTU Annual Meeting Announcement*

We hold our annual meeting in conjunction with the October chapter meeting. Every other year, on the odd years, we hold elections to elect new officers whose terms are for two years, and three board members who serve six years terms. I plan to step down as President and will serve automatically as Past President. Our Vice President, Steve Slack has agreed to serve one two-year term as President if so elected. Secretary Randy Rowe and Treasurer Renee Jackwood have agreed to serve another two-year term if so elected. What we really need is for someone to step up and serve a term as Vice President, to learn the ropes, or should I say the “knots,” of heading up the chapter once the next president’s term is over. That person will get plenty of encouragement and assistance from current officers and

board members. I have served as vice-president, president or past-president for most of the past 16 years, and it will be my pleasure to help and advise. It is time for a change. I have promised to continue to serve as the webmaster for the chapter.

There are other non-elected, appointed positions we need to fill. Currently we have a need to appoint a Fundraising chair, a Membership chair, and a women and diversity chair among others. We currently have Randy Geib serving as Financial Reviewer, Randy Rowe as Meeting Coordinator, Daral Jackwood as Trout in the Classroom coordinator and Nick Wisda as Newsletter Editor. If you would like to volunteer to serve in an elected or appointed role for the good of the

Clear Fork River chapter, please let me or another chapter officer. We welcome your input and support.



July flood left Debris 4-5 ft high on the fence at Grosjean parking lot

## *Stocking Apple Creek, Fly-fishing Clinics & Cleanup*

**Saturday, 9/14 10:00—Noon Stream Cleanup:** The storms in the Apple Creek watershed this past July, caused catastrophic flooding in Grosjean Park. There was 4-5 feet of water in the parking lot. All sorts of trash from upstream was deposited; over 100 tires, washing machines, refrigerators, mattresses and so on. This is being removed as I type. Once the big stuff is cleared, we will want to have the small stuff, cans, bottles, plastic, small tires and more removed. I am tentatively looking at Saturday, September 14, from 10 until noon.

**Saturday, 10/16, 10:00 –Noon—October stocking of Apple Creek at Grosjean**

**Park in Wooster.** Come prepared to wade Apple Creek and stock rainbow and brown trout over a one mile stretch of the stream in Wooster’s Grosjean Park. We will meet a little before 10a.m. at the Grosjean Park kiosk.

**Friday, 11/8, 12:00-3:00—Wounded Warriors Fly Fishing at Ohio Division of Wildlife hatchery in Castalia.** Each fall we call upon 15 members to assist providing fly fishing lessons for the Wounded Warriors organization, veterans of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the middle east who have suffered physi-

cal injuries and mental stress.

**Saturday 11/16, 10:00-Noon—November stocking of Apple Creek at Grosjean Park in Wooster.** Approximately 400-500 good sized rainbow and brown trout will be stocked in Apple Creek.



## *\*New Meeting Location\**

Please note that beginning with our September 9 meeting and for the rest of the year we will be having our regular Chapter meetings at Room 130 in the Research Services Building at OSU/OARDC. Meeting times will remain the same with the meetings starting promptly at 7:15 and gathering times starting at 6:45.

The building is the first one to the left when you come into the main entrance to the OARDC. (See picture below). The room will seat 36 to 60 people and is set up for showing power point presentations. The parking adjacent to the Research Services building is better than for the Fisher Auditorium that has lost two-thirds of its parking spaces because of construction of a new science building.



## *Aurora Nymph*

“A hot fly on the Clear Fork River in 2017”

### **Materials:**

**Hook:** #12-14 scud hook

**Bead:** gold or copper tungsten-

**Thread:** 8/0 black or red

**Body:** medium opal tinsel

**Thorax:** 3-4 strands peacock herl

**Wing cover:** medium (or large) opal tinsel

**Tail & legs:** mini rubber legs, any color



### **Tying instructions:**

Wrap thread at base of bead to snug in, then wrap thread back to hook bend. Tie in rubber leg material to form paired tails. Secure a length of tinsel near tail and spiral with overlapping turns up to just behind bead. This is when it is nice to have a rotary vice. Leave a small piece of tinsel to form the wing cover. Wrap peacock herl to form a thorax 1-5 to 2 times size of bead head, then pull over remaining tinsel to form a wing cover. Place a length of rubber leg material to form a set of legs on the far side of nymph and a similar length on the near side and secure with no more than three wraps of thread between the legs. Tie 4 to 5 half hitches with a half hitch tool just behind the bead. Trim tails and legs, then coat tinsel on abdomen with clear hard as nails finger nail polish.

To better protect the opal tinsel from tearing, counter wrap abdomen with fine gold wire after wrapping tinsel. Both the gold wire and hard as nails protect the tinsel when hook is removed from fish with forceps.

## **Trout Unlimited**

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Visit us on the Web at [cfrtu.org](http://cfrtu.org)

## *Website Updates*

**CHAPTER WEBSITE:** Our website ([cfrtu.org](http://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](http://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 Research 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 meet new members—and maybe, learn a new fly pattern. We do not meet June through August (so we can all go fishing). For the most up-to-date information on meetings and other events please visit our website at [cfrtu.org](http://cfrtu.org).