



TIGHT LINES

pacvtu.org



Volume 28 Issue 3 Cumberland Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited

Sept. – Nov. 2023

+++++++ Recipient of the 2011 Trout Unlimited “Gold Trout” National Conservation Award ++++++



Hard Work Always Pays Off By Robert Bergamaschi

Over the last few issues, we have been highlighting the hard work our chapter has been putting in. Organizing restoration projects, prepping and execution of the Rivers Camp, the launch of our chapter Service Partnership, the Feet in the Stream (FITS) crew, these just a few of the projects and events.

As you cast yourself into this issue, the hard work will show. The events, the outings, the education, the chapter meetings, outreach to our partners, the opportunity to serve never rests.

Let this serve as a call to our membership. With well over 600 members, we need your continued help and support. None of the activities you see in this issue happen by accident, they happen when our members are active, and are willing to offer just a little bit of their time to our mission. Keep up the hard work.

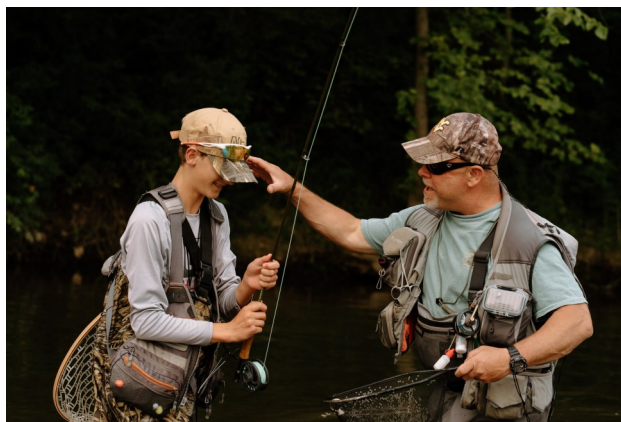


Photo Courtesy: Kelsey Mummert

CONTENTS:

Hard Work.....	1
Member's Meetings	1
Keeping Tight Lines Strong ...	2
Tight Lines Distribution and Mail Chimp	2
Calendar of Events	2
Membership Info	2
Address Change	2
Senior Discount	2
President's Message	3
Officers & Directors	3
October Membership Mtg.....	4
Vince's Meadow	4
Feet in the Stream	4
Service Partnership	5
East Licking Creek Trip	5
Barnitz Church Project	6
Riparian Work at Barnitz	6
Mountain Creek Cleanup	7
CVTU Summer Picnic	7
Member Meeting Location	8
Cumberland County Plan	8
Not Just a Fishing Story	9
Rivers Camp Thank You	9
Breakout Bows	10

Upcoming Meetings:

Sept. 20th —(Mt. Zion Church)—Scott Cox and Jeff Hartranft, Pa. DEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands

Oct. 7th at noon – Recording – Mike Blackmore, Habitats Team at [Wessex River Trust](#)

November 15th —(Mt. Zion Church)—CVTU Year in Review – John Zazworsky, CVTU President



Keeping Tight Lines Strong

Robert Bergamaschi - Editor



Calendar of Events

2023

September 9th

Last Supper
Vince's Meadow Pavilion
914 S. Spring Garden St.
Carlisle, PA.

September 20th

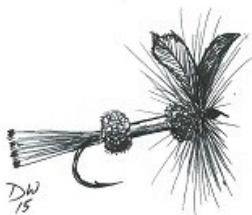
Chapter meeting
Mt. Zion Church—Boiling
Springs

October 7th

Chapter Meeting
RECORDING ONLY

November 15th

Chapter Meeting
Mt. Zion Church—Boiling
Springs



~ Thank you to those who contributed content to this issue, it is much appreciated. In addition to content for *Tight Lines*, we are always looking for your ideas on presenters at our chapter meetings. If you have seen presentations you think would be good for the chapter, or have ideas, please send them along. I invite you to contribute or offer recommendations for content you'd like to see in *Tight Lines* or at a future chapter meeting. Please feel free to email me ideas, content, etc. at rjberggy42@gmail.com

Robert Bergamaschi

~ If you want to continue receiving *Tight Lines*:

- Share your e-mail address with CVTU. We will not share it with anyone else. You can always unsubscribe.
- Drop a note to CVTU, PO Box 520, Carlisle PA 17013 and ask to have future publications mailed to your home.
- You can go to our web site, www.pacvtu.org and read the current and past publications.

~ Submission of articles and suggestions for this newsletter are encouraged and may be sent to cvtu052@gmail.com. The deadline for the next issue is the 25th of each month prior to the next newsletter. *Tight Lines* is published in Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. The primary distribution of *Tight Lines* is currently via Mail Chimp email system. *Tight Lines* will be mailed by request only. If you move, change your phone number, or e-mail address, notify us by emailing CVTU at: cvtu052@gmail.com. We can change your info at TU National for you. TU also has a "Do Not E-Mail" option for members who do not want to receive TU reminders and solicitations via e-mail...they'll still get it through USPS. You will have to call TU's membership services to make that change.

~ If you're a senior citizen, you're entitled to a membership discount.
www.tu.org/senior



Photo Courtesy: D. Weaver

CVTU Membership is Currently 614!

CVTU receives a \$15 rebate from the **special \$17.50 first-year membership dues** when the chapter code 052 is marked on the application. **New Members** may also join online at www.tu.org/intro. Be sure to select chapter 052, Cumberland Valley. You may renew your membership by mail or on the web at www.tu.org. You may also renew, or change your membership information by calling **TU Customer Service** at **1-800-834-2419**. For more information, contact our Membership Chairman.

President's Message

From the President, John Zazworsky

Cumberland Valley Chapter Officers and Directors (term)

To contact any of the following individuals, please use:
cvtu052@gmail.com

President:

John Zazworsky (24)

Vice President:

Justin Pittman (25)

Secretary:

Daryll Kuhn (23)

Treasurer:

Jeb Betar (25)

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Bergamaschi (24)

Stream Access & Conservation Chair:

Neil Sunday (25)

Information & Education Chair:

Garrett Kieffer (23)

Activities Chair:

(Open)

Membership Chair:

(Open)

Limestone Banquet:

Gary Leone (24)

Online Auction:

Garrett Kieffer (23)

At Large:

Tom Baltz (23)

George Reilly (23)

Eric Naguski (24)

Jonathan Daniels (24)

Robert Bergamaschi (24)

Chad Greenlee (23)

Bonnie Golla (25)

Zoe Metro (25)

This summer has seen winter planning become reality, keeping our chapter focused on the goal of increasing cold, clean and fishable water.

The Barnitz Church stream and bank improvement project took a big step forward, with most planned work completed in the last week of June. If you're familiar with the area and its previous condition, you can already see the results of our work.

The stream flow has narrowed and the gravel bottom is now much cleaner, which will encourage wild reproduction. Stream bank structures are capturing some of that former silt, which will help build up the banks. Work is underway to produce educational signs to inform the public of what was done and highlight the many groups who cooperated to make the work possible.

To finish the project, we'll plant native trees, bushes and grasses along the bank to further reduce erosion. Fall tree planting is a great way to get involved in our chapter's work, which has improved a popular public fishing area in our region.

The Letort mouth stream project was scheduled for work in September; however, delays in securing landowner permission has put this project on hold. We're actively involved with all parties to get this project underway as soon as possible.

The Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth camp at Messiah University was a success again this year. Thanks to all of our chapter members who volunteered in many ways, and most especially thanks to the camp's board and staff who work throughout the year to organize an experience that motivates young men and women to learn more about our understanding our environment and conserving our cold water resources.

Please take a look at our upcoming chapter meeting schedule. We continue to schedule speakers who help us learn more about fly fishing, stream conservation, and community engagement. Come join us, make some new friends, and get involved!

Tight Lines,

John

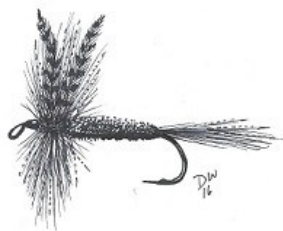


Photo Courtesy: Mark Albano

October Membership Meeting Seeking Your Input By Chad Greenlee

We'd like to ask for your input for an upcoming membership meeting presentation.

For our October Membership meeting, we will have a recording of Mike Blackmore (Bio below) give a chalk stream restoration and habitat overview with restoration advice being the main subject. He is generous enough to take our questions, which he will answer throughout his recording.

Send your questions regarding limestone stream restoration and habitat improvement to Chad Greenlee at cgreenlee285@gmail.com, who will get them to the speaker.

Mike Blackmore has over 15 years experience of river restoration. He manages the Habitats Team at Wessex River Trust, along the Avon River in the UK and leads on design and delivery of their restoration and enhancement projects. Mike also leads on the Trust's procurement and contract management, and oversees much of the Trust's health and safety, logistics, and technical development.

Vince's Meadow Planting Update By Chad Greenlee

Since starting work on Vinces/Heritage Tract projects in March, that kicked off the search for sourcing seeds, grasses, shrubs and most importantly, maintenance helpers for weeding and initial invasive removal. Over 100 Volunteer Hours of weeding, planting, and planning of future projects have happened.

Over 100 native local ecotype plants planted, 70 swamp milkweed and big/little bluestem were donated by a Lebanon County Master Gardener, and a few other donors, and 30 donated by me and my stash. I am always looking for sources of funds for seeds/cages/stakes, etc to slowly transform the property. If sitting in japanese stiltgrass and weeding excites you, feel free to shoot me an email at cgreenlee285@gmail.com



Photo Courtesy: Chad Greenlee

Feet In The Stream (FITS) Work Report By Neil Sunday

On August 14, 2023 eight members of CVTU worked at "The Run" which connects Children's Lake to the Yellow Breeches in Boiling Springs.

Our members cleaned fallen limbs, trash and debris from this well-known fishing spot! Children's Lake has been refilled, and the Yellow Breeches Anglers Club has restocked the lake for fishing.

CVTU is exploring options to work with the County for replanting trees along the outflow of Children's Lake to restore vegetation and cover to this favorite area.



The hard working
FITS crew!



The FITS crew
"rakin' the run".



FITS crew member
making a trash run.

Photo Courtesy: Neil Sunday

CVTU Participates in First Service Partnership Event

By Robert Bergamaschi

As noted in the last issue of Tight Lines, CVTU is starting a service partnership program to share the joy and peace of being on the water with active duty military, veterans, police, firefighters, and first responders.

CVTU participated in the welcome expo event at the Army War College on August 9th. CVTU staffed the outdoor booth and spoke with active service members that showed interest in the mission of our chapter, collecting contact information for over 30 interest service members.

Stay tuned for details on our first hosted Service Partnership event on October 14th. We will be on the banks of the Yellow Breeches at Barnitz church providing instruction, information, and food to both service members and interested CVTU members.

As noted above, the service partnership is intended to reach not just active duty or retired military, but also well law enforcement, police, fire, and emergency medical services. If you have suggestion on local organizations in these areas for outreach, please let David Bowerman know (contact information below)

If you have an interest in helping in the Service Partnership, as well as the upcoming event on October 14th, please contact David Bowerman (Davidsbowerman@gmail.com) and let him know, the team can use your help!



Photo Courtesy: R. Bergamaschi



2023 East Licking Creek CVTU Fishing Event

By Robert Bergamaschi

Several chapter members made the trip to Tuscarora State Forest for fishing and fellowship on East Licking Creek on June 3rd.

Although the creek (or is it crick?) was a little low for early June, the fish were active, and everyone was able to find their share of wild browns and native brook trout.

Experienced CVTU members were able to share tips and tricks to newer members, to include different techniques to try, including sneaking up to the creek and hiding behind trees when casting!

No fishing outing would be complete without fellowship and food. After fishing in the morning, chapter members gathered at the Karl B. Guss picnic area for great conversation, and fabulous food. Thank you to Bradley Harlacher for organizing the event, and to all members who contributed food, drinks, and knowledge.



Photo Courtesy: R. Bergamaschi

Phase 1 of Restoration Work at Barnitz Church Property Complete

By Robert Bergamaschi

As announced in the previous issue of Tight Lines, Phase 1 of the restoration work on the Yellow Breeches at the Barnitz Church property was completed.

The project has been planned for several years, and CVTU, working in partnership or in collaboration with non-profit environmental and conservation organizations throughout the Cumberland Valley, raised the funds to complete the project in June. The total cost of the project was about \$35,000.

The stream work included bank stabilization using log frame stone deflectors making the stream in these sections a bit narrower and faster, allowing for lower water temperatures and less silt and erosion.



Photo(s) Courtesy: Chad Greenlee

Be on the lookout for chapter announcements for Phase 2 of this restoration project as we will be looking for volunteers to plant native grasses and plants on the property to further protect the riparian habitat in this section.

Thank you to all of our partners on this project who made this project, which started as an idea in 2017, a reality!



Riparian Work Continues This Fall at the Barnitz Church Project

By Jonathan Daniels

CVTU members and volunteers from partner organizations like The Barnitz Church congregation, The Penn Cumberland Garden Club, The Carlisle Rotary groups and others will have the opportunity to work together this fall planting native trees, shrubs and herbaceous seed mixes along the Yellow Breeches to compliment the instream structures PA Fish and Boat installed in July.

Establishing a riparian buffer was a stipulation of the substantial grant monies we received from The South Mountain Partnership www.SouthMountainPartnership.org and Cumberland County www.CumberlandCountyPA.gov.

We are tentatively shooting for **Sunday Sept. 24th afternoon 1-3PM** and Saturday October 7th 10-Noon to plant the tree and shrub seedlings. These plants are being provided free to the project as part of our partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Keystone 10 Million Trees initiative [CBF – K10 Initiative](http://CBF-K10.org) which is designed to move Pennsylvania closer to meeting its commitment to reducing sediment and nutrient inputs into the Bay.

CVTU has contracted with ReFlorest www.ReFlorest.org, a company owned by CVTU member Ben Mummert which specializes in environmental restoration of native plants and trees in local ecosystems, to kill the existing sod grass turf in the project area and prepare the soil for the Ernst Seeds www.Ernstseed.com mix of native grasses and wildflowers which will be installed after the tree and shrub plantings.

Come get your hands dirty with us and be sure to bring your rod to see how the stream fishes with the new structures! The picture below is one of the planting areas at the Barnitz Church.

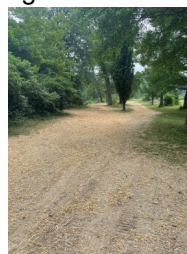


Photo Courtesy: R. Bergamaschi

Mount Holly Springs Watershed Cleanup

By Robert Bergamaschi

Join [Tread Lightly!](#), [Precision Fly and Tackle](#) and [Pine Grove Premium Outfitters](#) for a watershed cleanup project in Mount Holly Springs, PA. Tread Lightly! will provide trash grabbers, gloves and trash bags. We will be cleaning up Mountain Creek and its surrounding access points to improve watershed quality- not all participants will need to walk through the creek. Redemption BBQ of Shippensburg will be at Precision Fly and Tackle serving up some of the best BBQ in the area, so bring a chair and some lunch money to enjoy a meal after the event!

Event details below.

DO YOUR PART



MOUNT HOLLY SPRINGS WATERSHED CLEANUP

Join Tread Lightly!, Precision Fly and Tackle and Pine Grove Premium Outfitters for a watershed cleanup project in Mount Holly Springs, PA

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 16th from 9 AM - 2PM
WHERE: Precision Fly and Tackle
502 N Baltimore Ave, Mt Holly Springs, PA 17065
W3W: ///buzzing.buggy.huffs
WHAT TO BRING: Waders or muck boots, water and lunch money
RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/mvypkyee>



[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#)



Photo Courtesy: R. Bergamaschi

Annual CVTU Summer Picnic

By Jeb Betar

Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited (CVTU) held its annual summer picnic on August 19, 2023 at the Carlisle Fish and Game Association Event Barn. We had a good turnout of 45 folks who came for the fun, camaraderie, and of course the food!!!

This year's picnic was again catered by Smoked Trout. Wes has become a strong supporter of cold water conservation and CVTU. Wes and his able assistant, Lori Sunday, served up a great traditional picnic meal. Please think of Wes if you are planning a catered event; we can provide points of contact.

Special thanks to Neil Sunday, who officiated the CVTU casting championship again this year. The day was perfect for fly casting. The shade by the pond on the grounds provided a wonderful viewing station as many of our most prodigious attendees tried their hand at casting a fly line as far and as accurately as humanly possible and then some!!!! We're glad to report that all rotator cuffs and lower backs are still intact!!!

Ken Okorn was declared the winner of the men's competition and Jen Reilly was declared the winner of the women's competition. A special congratulations to both winners and to all the contestants who put their skills on the line!!! (pun intended).

CVTU also held a bucket raffle during the picnic. We want to thank everyone for donating items and supporting the raffle. Thanks to everyone's enthusiastic participation, we raised \$480 that will be put to great use improving the cold water streams in and around Cumberland Valley.

Just a reminder that the CVTU last supper is coming up on September 9th. We are continuing a tradition that was started by Vince Marinaro, Charlie Fox, and many of CVTU's original cast of characters years ago to celebrate the end of trout season in Pennsylvania. The highlight of the Last Supper is the awarding the Traveling Rod to someone who will care for it, take on fishing trips, and maybe even catch a fish or two!!!! If you are in the area, please plan to attend!!!

Change of Location for the Sept. 20th General Membership Meeting

By Jonathan Daniels

Since CVTU lost its first and longest standing meeting location at The Allenberry Resort, we have monthly general meetings in many different locations. Disruptions from Covid aggravated this inconsistency and has made it challenging for our chapter to find a suitable local facility that can meet our needs.

Over this last year we have met at the Bosler and Simpson Library courtesy of the Cumberland County Library System. These facilities have allowed the use of their conference rooms which have very nice AV systems, but there are restrictions when using public facilities.

We have been looking for a private facility that would allow us to conduct raffles again, that would have simpler parking options, and would be able to accommodate the remote meeting capabilities.

The Mt Zion Crossroads Church is located at 420 Park Drive between Boiling Springs and Mt Holly next to the Vitro Glass plant. They have ample space for parking outside and for meetings inside as well as Wi-Fi for the remote capability. They also happen to be a partner church with Barnitz Church where we have our ongoing stream improvement project this year.

On September 20th, Scott Cox and Jeff Hartranft, of the DEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, will speak about Legacy Sediment and possible approaches to the Mountain Creek project to address sediments eroding from the area above the Upper Holly dam which was removed decades ago. Some of this part of Mountain Creek is owned by the Mt Holly Marsh Preserve and a significant amount is controlled by the paper filter plant in Upper Mt Holly currently owned by The Ahlstrom Corporation which has its main offices in Norway. The dam was originally built to provide water and power for this filter plant in the mid 1800's.

This is a potentially massive project which Cumberland County, who owns and co-manages the Preserve with the Nature Conservancy, and many other local and regional stake holders are excited about.

Cumberland County Comprehensive and Land Partnership Plan Being Updated

By Jonathan Daniels

How many times have we driven past a construction project and thought "What!!! They're going to do that THERE?....That is such a shame. Somebody should have realized..."

The reason could be that was a special stream and was my fishing spot. Or a beautiful field, or a place you used to walk.

Well, Cumberland County (which allotted tens of thousands of dollars of grants for water quality projects this year, including CVTU's Barnitz Church and the Letort Falls projects) has a public survey out right now which asks for public input from anyone, resident or visitors, who cares about the future of Cumberland County's natural resources, parks, trails and greenways. This is a critical opportunity for you as a citizen and a member of CVTU to make your voice heard and help shape County conservation policies for our future.

Taking a moment to fill out this survey will allow policy makers to justify dedicating funding and prioritizing projects to protect and improve natural resources generally, and our cold-water resources specifically, here in the Cumberland Valley. We all have a lot of demands on our time but we implore you, PLEASE take a few moments for this survey. It could really make a long-term difference for our local streams, parks, greenways, and trails that protect them.

Residents & Employees in Cumberland County:

TAKE OUR ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY!

We need your feedback!

Cumberland County has proven itself as a preferred destination to live, work, and visit. To maintain that status, we are updating our Comprehensive and Land Partnerships Plans to guide future development and conservation efforts. We need your help to plan for the future by telling us:

- ✓ Special places that should be preserved for future generations
- ✓ Actions that should be taken to enhance the county's quality of life
- ✓ Projects that should be pursued to improve transportation, outdoor recreation, and protect natural resources
- ✓ The best ways to communicate and engage our residents in decision-making

TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31!

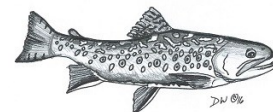
Scan the QR code or use the link below:
<https://necg.su/148B558>



NEED A PAPER SURVEY OR HELP COMPLETING THE ONLINE SURVEY?

Contact the Cumberland County Planning Department at 717.246.5362 or planningreviews@cumberlandcountypa.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COMPREHENSIVE OR LAND PARTNERSHIPS PLANS, VISIT: WWW.CUMBERLANDCOUNTYPA.GOV/PLANNING



Not Just a Fishing Story—A Call for Your Expertise

By Robert Bergamaschi

As the title suggests, this is not just a fishing story, but a story about fly fishing in Utah, an experienced guide, experience of our chapter, and CVTU....it all comes together, trust me.

Traveling for work is both a blessing and a curse. The blessing comes when you take the time to plan for some personal time which I was able to do at the end of June.

I had 1 day to fish, so rather than risk driving around Utah trying to find good public access, I decided to rely on the experience and expertise of a local guiding service out of Park City, Utah. My guide contacted me in advance, and we made a plan to go after some big browns rather than fight the crowd for average sized fish.

We ended up on the Strawberry River in Duchesne, Utah. Soon after starting, I was on the fish thanks to my guide. He did his homework, knew the spots, and was prepared.



As I reflected on this trip, it got me thinking about our chapter, the large number of members we have, and most importantly, the number of years of experience combined our chapter has. If not for the knowledge and experience of the guide I had that day, I probably have an average day at best.

This is a call to share our 100's of years of experience, expertise, and local knowledge of our region with the chapter. Please stay tuned to our announcements for opportunities to serve.

Photo Courtesy: R. Bergamaschi

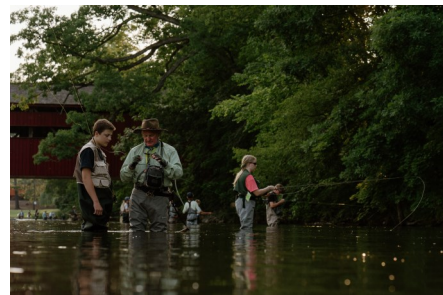
Rivers Camp Thank You By Clark Hall

The 28th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp concluded at 1 p.m. on Friday June 18th.

Many CVTU members and friends contributed flies. Each camper was given a box with over 100 flies appropriate for fishing the Yellow Breeches during the camp. Over 50 individuals contributed flies to the campers, amazing!

CVTU members also responded by volunteering as ghillies for the ten fishing sessions. We had a great turnout of ghillies, providing more than adequate individual instruction to the campers. All of the campers caught fish, and several caught their first trout on the fly!

A survey was taken at the end of the week for all activities, and the ghillies got high marks across the board from the campers. Thank you to all who donated flies, volunteered as ghillies, or helped with the camp in anyway.



Photo(s) Courtesy: Kelsey Mummert

Breakout Bows—An Early Season Float Trip on the Kenai River, Alaska

Contributed By CVTU Member Sam Rob

After two weeks of rigorous training in jungle warfare on the island of Oahu under my belt, I felt prepared for the 25th Infantry Division's annual rotation to the Philippines. Of course, everything is constantly in flux in the Army. One evening, I got the call, but not the one I was expecting. There had been a change of plans: I was headed to Alaska. Instead of the sultry jungle, I would be in the arctic for two months during what the locals call "breakout season" as the arctic snowpack begins to melt.

"The Army's sending you to Alaska, huh? Too bad it's a bit too early, you'll miss all the fishing."

You'll miss all the fishing. It reverberated in my head as I packed away my 3 wt 7'6" TFO 4-piece rod that I keep with me no matter where I go, just in case. I was determined to prove otherwise, but arriving at the Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage the first of April with several feet of snow on the ground gave credence to the skeptics. The coldest Easter on record in recent years saw a fresh blanket of snow, which meant cars smashed at traffic lights and me counter-steering on the way from Anchorage to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Yet, as most fishers do in the cold when not actually fishing, I dreamed of, and planned for fishing. I soon learned the snow wasn't the only limiting factor. Due to the limited road network of the "Last Frontier," the Chugach mountains and Kenai Peninsula are the most accessible regions for a fisher based in Anchorage.

Most of the streams and rivers in these areas were closed for spawning until the King salmon started their first run in early June. After tracking down a guide, I found a fellow Army Captain as a fishing buddy, who had never been fly fishing, or had even caught a trout.

We started the day out enjoying some sunny spring weather on the drive down from Anchorage to Cooper's Landing, but of course good weather always means one thing: more fishermen. Cooper's Landing was a ghost town, but it was a red herring. Our guide service, *AK Troutfitters*, was the only business open in the fishing town,continued on right column

Breakout Bows — Continued

.....but when we got to the boat ramp it was a different story. We were on the water by 10:00am, not taking long to rig up a few 9'6" graphite rods with large size #10 green drake nymphs dangling off a large indicator.

The guide helped coach the other captain on his first casts in some slack water. I decided not to wait as I silently repeated an adage that one of my fly fishing mentors, Steve Parker, had drilled into me in the half-light of the morning under the sycamores shading my home waters of Pennsylvania's Yellow Breeches creek: "every cast is your best cast."

A mend or two later and I had my first hookset. I tightened the line before landing my first rainbow of the day. It wasn't a big 'bow, but I was elated to feel the tug again and impress a first timer at connecting on my first cast.



We worked our way down-river, taking in the scenery and conversing about trout and salmon on the famous river.

My mind always wanders on the water. I found myself wondering if an experience like this is what propelled President Jimmy Carter to protect over 150,000 acres of Alaskan wilderness in 1980.

I caught half a dozen rainbows that day and a whitefish to boot. Yet, it was the fish I didn't catch that I remember most. Like most novices, my friend didn't recognize the bite, but after the guide and I excitedly coached him to set the hook and fight the fish, my fishing buddy worked a fat rainbow to the net. The look of elation etched into his face and his care of handling his first fish on a fly was as satisfying as if I had caught the fish myself.

Author Norman MacLean writes that it is the fisherman, more than the poet, who experiences 'spots of time', eternity compressed into a moment.

I remembered when I first felt it: "suddenly the whole world is a fish and the fish is gone." I haven't been the same since. Cheers to the breakout 'bows for allowing me to feel it again.



Photo(s) Courtesy: S. Rob