



Trout in the Classroom

Trout in the Classroom has been in Wayne County Schools for four years. It's been quite an experience for the students, educators and even the local Waterways Conservation Officer. The program has yielded great results. With eight participating classrooms, thousands of fry, fingerlings and even a few legal-sized trout have been released into Wayne County waters. One tank even produced three rainbow trout that were over 8-inches long.—WCO Dave Kaneski, Northern Wayne County.

Good luck charm

Sometimes during the course of patrols, anglers will tell you that they will wear a certain hat or shirt or use a certain lure or fishing rod, which they believe has brought them good luck while fishing. While on boat patrol at Beltzville Lake with WCO Kadin Thompson, we observed three adult individuals fishing from a small boat. Further observation of the three individuals revealed that they were not displaying their fishing licenses as required. Upon boarding their boat, WCO Thompson asked to check their fishing licenses and boating safety equipment. While performing the boarding, I noticed that WCO Thompson appeared to be somewhat puzzled. Upon further observation, I discovered that WCO Thompson was looking at a pigeon that was in the boat. Somewhat puzzled myself, I asked them why they had a pigeon in their boat. They explained that while fishing, they saw the pigeon hit the water and thought that the pigeon was hurt. So, they decided to retrieve it and place it in their boat. Upon checking the pigeon and it appearing to be unharmed, they decided the pigeon would bring them good luck and could serve as a good luck charm. After

exchanging a few laughs and leaving their boat, WCO Kadin Thompson stated that it appeared they were having a pigeon a day. I believe this was the first time WCO Kadin Thompson and I ever witnessed a pigeon as a good luck fishing charm.—WCO Scott J. Christman, Southern Carbon and Southwest Monroe counties.

Today's technology

One of the duties conferred upon WCOs is the power to serve arrest warrants issued for violations of Title 30. One such warrant served utilized some of today's technology. WCO Ted Kane and I arrived at a residence hoping to find the violator who had not yet settled his debt with the local district court. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by a female acquaintance of this individual who informed us that he was no longer living in the area. We attempted to gather information regarding his current whereabouts. This was done through Facebook. The female was able to chat online with the person who we had the arrest warrant for and provide him with the appropriate information to take care of the matter. The last piece of chat stated that he would take care of the fine. Both WCO Kane and I were skeptical that this would actually happen and thought that we would have to return to the residence at a later date. To our amazement, a few days later we received word through the court that the fine had been paid in full. The Internet is yet another valuable tool of law enforcement.—WCO Anthony J. Quarracino Jr., Southern Huntingdon County.

Time of his life

I've been on this job nearly 18 years, and I thought I had seen just about everything. That was up until a busy summer holiday weekend. I

was patrolling a popular boat ramp on the Delaware River used mainly by personal watercraft (PWC). As I was watching the activity at the ramp and the shoreline, a man pulled up in his pickup truck with a PWC and was preparing to launch it. It was impossible not to notice this man, because he had a dog in the front seat of the truck that would not stop barking. He was barking at everything and everybody, and at nothing at all and would not stop. My attention grew into a great deal of concern when I realized that he was going to leave the dog in a hot, parked vehicle while he went out on his PWC. Well, my concern was misplaced, and my suspicions were incorrect. The guy parked his truck and trailer and returned to the ramp with his dog on a leash. I kept looking around to see if anyone else was with them, but there was no one. The guy put on his life jacket, got on the PWC and called for the dog. I thought okay, the dog is going to jump on and get in front of the operator where he could control the dog, and they would go for a ride. But once again, I was wrong. The dog jumped onto the back of the PWC and straddled the seat. His belly on the seat, his front legs on one side of the seat and his hind legs on the other side of the seat. The operator idled out from shore and took off at a high rate of speed. The last thing I saw was the back end of a dog with a tail wagging so fast that he had to be having the time of his life.—WCO Alan W. Moyer, Southern Bucks County.

Early retirement?

As a Waterways Conservation Officer, I was aware of the fact that I may need to take a position anywhere across the state. When I was at the training school and found out that Greene County was open and cleared as one of our districts to choose, I was



more than excited. I was born and raised in Greene County and know the people and area very well, or so I thought. When official word came that I was to receive Greene County as my very own district, it came with mixed comment. "Oh, retiring so early are we," one officer so eloquently stated to me. Other comments of the same nature were received throughout the remainder of my training. I couldn't believe my ears. Had my home become nothing more than a barren, relaxed district where nothing happens and lets the old wardens of the day go out in peace? After four solid weeks of working this district, I am pleased to say, I won't be retiring any earlier than the Commonwealth is going to allow me. I have had fish kills, boating accidents, large stream disturbances and a BUI (boating under the influence) over a major holiday weekend so far this past month. I can only state it best with the words of the former Greene County officer, Tom Crist, "Green County is what you make it." Well Tom, I am happy to say that I'm going to make Greene County my home once again and keep it safe and clean while I'm here. Oh, and congratulations to my fellow cadets, turned WCOs, on their outstanding work as well. It sounds like we are all showing a promising future in our new careers.—WCO Eric Davis, *Greene and Southern Washington counties.*

My favorite fishing thoughts

Some of my favorites fishing thoughts are reflected in the following quotes:

"The wilderness and adventure that are in fishing still recommend it to me."—Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, 1854.

"...fishermen value most the fish that are hard to take and value least those that are offered to everybody on fishmonger's slab."—Arthur Ransome, *Rod and Line*, 1929.

"...tis not all of fishing to fish."—Izaak Walton, 1653.

"Were it possible to take a limit of trout every time we fished our favorite stream, how long would it take before the sport began to pall?"—Art Flick, *Art Flicks Streamside Guide*, 1947.

"Fishing is the quest for knowledge and wonder as much as a pursuit of fish; it is as much an acquaintance with beavers, dippers, and other fishermen as it is the challenge of catching trout."—Paul Schullery, *Mountain Time*, 1984.

"Perhaps fishing is, for me, only an excuse to be near rivers."—Roderick L. Haig-Brown, *A River Never Sleeps*, 1946.

"Only those become weary of angling who bring nothing to it but the idea of catching fish."—Rafael Sabatini, 1875-1950.

"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful..."—Paul Schullery, *Mountain Time*, 1984.

"Fly-fishing is solitary, contemplative, misanthropic, scientific in some hands, poetic in others, and laced with conflicting aesthetic considerations. It is not even clear if catching fish is actually the point."—John Gierach, *Dances with Trout*, 1994.

"...there has ever been a delightful uncertainty attending the anglers art, and therein lies one of its chiefest charms."—James Henshall, *Book of the Black Bass*, 1881.

I hope you enjoyed these quotes.—WCO William Crisp, *Cameron County*.

Reel expensive

While Deputy Dave Roberts and I were on patrol along the Lehigh Canal, we observed a vehicle blocking the emergency access gate to the canal, which was clearly marked "No Parking, Do Not Block." Upon checking the area for the responsible party blocking the gate, we observed a group of anglers along the canal approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away from the parked vehicle. We asked if any of them owned the

vehicle. One angler stated that he was responsible for parking in front of the gate. He further stated that he did not see the sign. Upon obtaining his information and informing him that he would be receiving a citation for blocking the gate, we noticed that he was carrying a fishing rod with no reel. When questioned about why the reel was missing from the fishing rod, he informed us that he was having problems with the reel and decided to take the reel back to his vehicle. Being somewhat confused that he would take his reel back to the vehicle, but would walk his fishing rod back to the location of his friends, I asked him why he would walk his fishing rod back to the location of his friends at which time he had no comment. Upon returning to his vehicle and having reason to believe that he discarded the reel along the canal, Deputy Roberts asked the angler about the reel that he placed in his vehicle. Suddenly, the angler replied that he did not have his reel in his vehicle. Realizing that he was about to be caught in his lies, he quickly admitted that since he was having problems with the reel, he decided to throw the reel over the embankment next to the river. After admitting that he discarded the reel over the embankment, he was informed that he would receive an additional citation for littering. While issuing the citations, Deputy Roberts informed the angler that possibly the reel could have been easily repaired. The angler quickly replied that he wanted to get a new reel anyway. After hearing his comment, Deputy Roberts and I thought what an expensive way to buy a new reel.—WCO Scott J. Christman, *Southern Carbon and Southwest Monroe counties.*

Signs

While on a routine patrol of a private community lake that I visit frequently, I observed a man fishing from the dock. From a distance, using my binoculars, I checked for a fishing license. He did not have a fishing license displayed on him. As I walked to the man's location, I passed a sign, which indicated that Pennsylvania fishing licenses are



required. Casually, I asked the man how he was doing and if he had a license. He said, "Yes." I asked if I could see his license. He looked a bit annoyed when he had to stop fishing and get his license out of his wallet. He handed me a current New York fishing license. Sadly, I had to inform him that he was presently fishing about two hours from the New York state border, and a New York fishing license was not valid to fish while located in Pennsylvania. I showed him the posting next to the dock. He was promptly issued a citation. I guess this guy just didn't want to read any signs.—WCO Eric Weredyk, *Southern Monroe and Northern Carbon counties.*

Where are the brakes?

I was dispatched to investigate a boat accident earlier this year in which a motorboat collided with a sailboat. It wouldn't have seemed that unusual except the sailboat was tied to the owner's dock on the shoreline at the time of the collision. After gathering information from the parties who were involved, I approached a local boat dealer who had done some recent service work to the motorboat since the operator had claimed mechanical issues may have been the cause for the collision. Before I could question the dealer about the possibility of any mechanical problems with the boat, he pointed to the operator of the motorboat. He said, "There's one guy who shouldn't be driving a boat." I told him he may be correct, but I asked him why he said that. The dealer explained that he had launched the motorboat for the owner about ten minutes prior to the collision. Prior to releasing the boat to the inexperienced owner, he had given him some instructions about the controls of the boat and how to use them. After giving him the short class, the boat's owner asked, "Where are the brakes?" There was no evidence of mechanical problems, but inexperience may have been a large factor in the accident.—WCO Kadin D. Thompson, *Wyoming and Southwestern Susquehanna counties.*

A surprise passenger

On a hot, sunny afternoon in August, WCO Christman and I were patrolling on Beltzville Lake when we decided to conduct a safety inspection of a canoe that had three passengers onboard. While Officer Christman was in the process of conducting the inspection, the owner of the canoe remarked to the gentleman in the bow, "Hey, there's a snake under your seat, man." Once the young lady seated in the middle of the canoe heard his statement, she reacted quite enthusiastically. Using some colorful expressions, she let us know that she did not care to be taking a canoe trip with a snake. During the excitement, I was able to lean over the patrol vessel and capture the uninvited passenger, a small and very harmless ringneck snake. Even though the snake was not dangerous, the little critter did prove to be troublesome for myself as well as the folks on the canoe. It managed to escape my grasp and crawl under the control console of the patrol boat. Then, WCO Christman informed me that it would not be in my best interest to leave the snake on his boat. After crawling around on my stomach and moving some safety equipment out of the way, I was able to recapture the elusive ringneck snake. However, it resulted with my face becoming covered in sweat and black grease. The snake was later released, unharmed, to the shore.—WCO Anthony Beers, *Southern Pike and Northeastern Monroe counties.*

All smiles

The opening day of trout was a special one for one young lady in Mercer County. As I watched a popular fishing hole from the bridge, I could see a few golden rainbow trout swimming. Approximately 20 people had the hole surrounded with the dreams of catching one of these golden rainbow trout. As the season opened, numerous fish were caught, but none of the goldies. After about 45 minutes, a little

girl who had not caught a fish yet set her hook and began to reel in her line. All of a sudden, a large golden rainbow trout surfaced. After several failed attempts to net the fish, her grandfather netted it for her. Everyone around the hole cheered, and the little girl was all smiles. It's great to see kids getting involved in fishing, especially when they show the adults how it's done.—WCO John G. Hopkins, *Southcentral Crawford and Eastern Mercer counties.*

Boating Under the Influence can cost

Last year, I and several other officers assisted WCO Nunamacher of Clinton County. A local resident was apprehended and placed under arrest for homicide by watercraft while operating under the influence and numerous other violations of the law (see November/December issue, page 45).

After taking the individual to the district court, having his bail set and transporting him to the county correctional facility, all the officers involved were pleased that the incident concluded without any physical confrontations and transpired smoothly.

After a couple of weeks passed, an individual in the area informed me that if I wanted to buy a snowmobile or dirt bike he knew where I could get one. I declined the offer somewhat quickly. As I was finishing my comment of not being much interested in the proposal, the individual said there was a pretty good sale going on in the area where we apprehended the individual mentioned earlier. I acknowledged the comment and was told it appeared that many items were for sale at the property.

Apparently, Boating Under the Influence takes more than just your money and your boating privileges away. You can lose everything you worked your entire life to obtain. Be smart—don't drink and drive, and don't drink and boat either.—WCO David Decker, *Centre County.*