TROUT PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

THREMMATOLOGY is a term used to cover the principles and practices conceived in the improvement of domesticated animals and plants.

In recent years students have made great improvement in both animal and plant breeding. Fish Culturists have not stood idly by while other agencies engaged in animal husbandry have made noted advancements. The men who are responsible for growing the different fish crops for stocking Pennsylvania water areas are students of animal breeding who apply the practices and principles used by the agriculturists insomuch as it can be applied to fish culture. Fish culture as compared to the many kinds of domestic animal breeding is yet in its infancy. Trout growing is possibly the oldest fish-culture work in this country, and for this reason has advanced to a greater extent in scientific management. Again it has advantage over other kinds of fish breeding, because trout can be grown under environmental conditions that can largely be controlled by the breeder.

The major accomplishments have been achieved in producing fish of rapid growth, improved coloration, and comparatively high in disease immunity, and have also increased the egg fertility with the exception of the rainbow trout. In this respect the method of selection of rainbow trout breeders has yielded a remarkable fish for Pennsylvania waters, but one very low in egg fertility. I am preparing an article at this time for the ANGLER covering our work with this fish, which has made such an important contribution to trout angling in this State.

Such factors as disease immunity and egg fertility have an economic bearing on production, but perhaps the most important in this respect is rapid growth. In the past few years the rate of growth of fish over a given period at all of the Board’s hatcheries has been greatly increased. The most rapid growth takes place at the Huntsdale Hatchery, where practically the entire trout crop, without culling out the slow growers of the season’s hatch, can be grown to legal size, or over, in twelve to fourteen months, and, where the most vigorous individuals are segregated, a growth of fifteen inches in twelve months is not uncommon.

The Bellefonte and Reynoldsdale Hatcheries are close competitors with the Huntsdale plant in this respect. The Corry station has the slowest growth rate of the four major trout plants; however, in the past two years, this has been materially increased. As an example, in former years few trout attained a size suitable to stock in public streams before they were twenty-two months old, and many were retained until they were thirty months old. This has been stepped up until approximately 50% of the crop is planted at the age of about twelve months, 25% at the age of fifteen to sixteen months, and the balance at about twenty-four months.

The careful selection of brood stock over a number of generations is, we believe, partly responsible for the increased rate of growth, but regardless of the blood strain if environmental conditions are not favorable, little can be expected. Through research the conditions under which the fish are grown are being constantly improved at the hatcheries. The water is exposed to the air to remove deleterious gases and increase the oxygen content; ponds are constructed so as to carry off waste matter and permit a rapid exchange of water; water temperature, that will permit a rapid food digestion and assimilation over the entire year, is given consideration; over-crowding in the pools is avoided, and care and judgment is exercised in feeding the fish. These factors have contributed largely to the increase of the growth of the trout.

Where fish are grown to the desired length in a short time, it cuts down the attendant’s labor, and greatly increases plant production. Under the present method of operation, ponds formerly used to hold fish, until they were large enough to plant, can now be utilized for holding and growing the next season’s crop. To illustrate, all of the fish hatched at the Huntsdale Hatchery during the winter of 1937 and 1938 are now planted in the streams of the State, leaving all ponds available for growing the trout hatched during the 1938-1939 period.

Commissioner of Fisheries
IN THE early part of the trout fishing season, one seldom encounters large hatches of flies, and the few that are on the water ordinarily appear during the warmest part of the day. These early insects are usually not on in sufficient numbers to cause trout to rise at the surface—consequently if one wants to catch trout, the wet fly or nymph will prove the safest bet.

Later on, of course, we have a different picture. From the middle of May up to the end of June, the dry fly reigns supreme. This is the season when trout rise to the surface to catch the insects that hover over the water. Some of these flies are accidentally blown on the water by winds; others dip into the surface to lay their eggs; while still others—especially those that have just emerged from the nymphal cases—ride the waves a short distance since the organs of flight are not yet firmly developed. All in all, it is a grand display of surface feeding and unlike early spring, the main hatches of insects now occur in the evening.

Towards fall, trout through necessity stop their surface feeding, and concentrate on food on the stream bed. Naturally at this time there are many young and no doubt helpless nymphs that fall easy victims to the trout in its struggle for an existence. These serve to whet its appetite, and since no other food is available, we can presume that he concentrates on these creatures, and learns to ferret out even the most elusive and skillful.

Throughout the winter months, this continual hunt goes on, the trout rooting around and overturning stones and gravel in its quest for food. Nothing else being available, the fish must depend entirely on the stream for its existence. In short, it has to take what the stream provides, and though the situation may appear acute, yet it could be much worse off. For instance, while everything on land appears to be in a dormant condition, the stream bed is literally alive with crawling things. There are water worms, crustaceae, nymphs, mollusca, stick worms or caddis creepers, minnows and many others.

Then comes spring! The snow water is beginning to run off; angleworms are washed down with the first warm rains; nymphs start rising to the surface to transform into the winged fly, and the trout now takes an additional interest in the water some distance above the stream bed; in short, its foraging ground is again changing. This condition usually occurs at the beginning of the trout fishing season; and at this time the wet fly will prove the most successful, simply because it is presented to the trout in the locality where it expects to find food—that is, somewhere below the surface of the water.

As I have mentioned, in the early part of the spring there are few flies emerging, and if we neglect the caddis fly group, it appears quite likely that trout take the wet fly either as a free ranging nymph, or one about to ascend to the surface, there to break open the nymphal skin and emerge as a winged fly. As we know there are many of the caddis flies that descend beneath the water to lay their eggs—a fact which should distinctly indicate some of these would be authorities, who maintain that winged flies are never found underneath the surface. Their arguments are based—and rightly so—on the fact that a spent or dead fly will float; but the fact remains that these caddis flies are not dead—but are very much alive. No one will ever know how a wet fly appears to a trout—it is a matter of open conjecture—but regardless of whether they are taken as flies or nymphs (or fish worms, as my friend Kepner would have it) the fact remains, that in early spring they are most successful.

Frankly, I believe that they should be given more attention. It may well be that in our continual search for something new and extreme, we are letting many opportunities slip by, when we fail to use the wet fly that had served our anglers so well before us.

Until around the end of the nineteenth century, no other method of fishing was known. Then in England appeared Halford, the leader of the dry fly cult. Apparently no one could resist the fascination of the fly which floated so lightly and jauntily downstream. Everyone took it up. Around 1918, a dry fly wave swept this country and the majority of us were engaged by it. Less and less was heard of the wet fly, until G. E. M. Skues, another Englishman, brought it again before the public in the form of nymphs.

Now, nymph fishing and wet fly fishing are very much alike. Both are presented to the trout under the surface of the water. With the exception of the wings, the artificial are quite similar—in fact, I have taken many trout on wet flies that had the wings cut off close to the body. The method of fishing differed somewhat, mainly because we were passing through an experimental stage, and we were not fully aware of what we were doing. Still, the method of presentation of the fly on the water, gave us the same level of success as the dry fly, and this is why we are now experiencing a return to this style of fishing.

No. 1 Red Quill

This fly is patterned after Isonychia palustris, one of the earliest mayflies to appear over the water. It is a typical cold water insect and is in season from the middle of April until the first week of May, but may sometimes be noticed a little later depending on the weather.

Body, peacock quill; hackle, dark brown tail, dark brown feather fibres; wings, starting.
TAKING TROUT ON NYMPHS
A Few Hints on Using Nymphs Effectively
R. W. McCaffery

IT WOULD probably be a wise move to begin this article with a confession or statement to protect myself. In writing this I make no pretense at being an expert at nymph fishing, rather I am just an ardent exponent of this type of angling for trout. I have seen anglers who are very proficient at nymph fishing and know of men who are considered experts. A personal friend, to be the successful angler he is, must be an expert.

To completely master nymph fishing is not the easiest task in trout angling but I consider it one of the most productive methods. And it should be. Nymphs, or water insects of one form or another, make up the bulk of trout feed. Rare indeed has been the trout stomach I have examined which did not contain at least several nymphal forms. Their excellent food value and the fact that they are ever present makes their imitations the logical contenders for first place of all imitation trout lures or flies.

To use nymphs successfully one should have at least a fair knowledge of aquatic insects unless of course, one wishes to go along aimlessly wasting much time changing from one lure to another. By this statement I do not wish to imply that with a knowledge of insects one will know when and what pattern he should use. Angling is not that easy and we can be happy that it isn't. However, insect study is both interesting and profitable to the angler as in the process of studying, one inadvertently studies the fish habits also. It is then that the angler notices how often he has mistaken a rise to a nymph as one to a floating fly. Fish often break the surface of the water in attempting to get a nymph, consequently the fly breaking water does not necessarily mean it will take floating flies.

In conversing with many anglers another erroneous belief is brought to our attention, that of nymphs being good only in early season or during periods of high water. It is true that at such times these insects are constantly being washed loose from their hiding places, but there are other factors to be remembered. At these periods there is much other food present in the stream and fishing nymphs at these times is not easily done, especially by the tyro. My best nymph fishing has not occurred at these periods probably because of my own inabilities. I cannot agree that these are the best times for using nymphs. Our dry fly fishing depends entirely upon the presence of nymphs. A hatch of flies denotes activity of nymphs and our best hatches of flies do not occur to much during early spring or periods of high water but rather during periods of stream normalcy. Why then this failure? I think it unreasonable.

The art of nymph fishing first seared me years ago when I confined most of my angling to brook trout streams. Nymph imitations were few and far between and it was an easy matter to select several patterns from a mail order catalogue. The streams I fished were small and brushy and I thought my leaders quite long—six feet. Several attempts with the new flies were fruitless therefore there was some forgotten scheme or method in my box, they remained there for several seasons.

Then one June night I read an interesting nymph article. The author of the article stressed long, fine leaders, nine and twelve feet long tapered to 3X and 4X. He suggested also that the beginner try this fishing in water where he could study the reactions of the fish. The desire to use nymphs was again aroused within me and this time I procured more suitable leaders and newer type flies. The next task was to locate several good fish. That being accomplished I went to work. I tried the ordinary drift cast, dropping the fly upstream and letting it drift naturally over the fish without attracting any attention whatever. The next cast was dropped several feet further upstream and the fly allowed to sink and come to rest under the fish. After a moment I twitched the rod tip twice gently. The fly moved in two small jerks and was taken solidly. Four fish were hooked in this manner. In each instance the fly was made to rest shortly on the bottom near a fish before it was moved in short jerks. This was quite different from the first experience several seasons before and was very encouraging. Nevertheless it was not always so easy. Many times it was impossible to first locate the fish. The seed was planted, however, and I was determined to learn more.

In the following seasons I learned the value of method variation. The depth at which the lure was fished, the different actions, and the lack of freedom or any unnatural movement imparted to the fly by the angler were all forcibly impressed upon me. By first locating a fish, if possible, I saw how many fish I frightened by imparting movements to the fly. For some fish the fly had to be scurrying close to the stones on the stream bottom, others took it at mid-depths while often a nymph rising laboriously to the surface was most effective.

A deep pool in which I had always failed to take a trout, one morning afforded excellent nymph fishing and has since repeated several times. The center of the pool was very deep and dark, the bottom covered with large boulders, an ideal spot for nice fish. The current was slow and rarely did a fish break the surface. Using a 12 foot 4X leader, I tied on a wood bodied nymph and employed the system of my first experience, but without success. I was about to move on as my eye caught a glimpse of a fish roll about four feet under the surface.

To get the fly to the proper depth I greased about one half the leader. This left approximately six feet to sink readily. The next move was to cast sufficiently upstream to assure the fly sinking deeply. When the nymph neared the position of the fish the rod tip was lifted upward about a foot, slowly causing the fly to struggle upward. That turned the trick and a brownie of about three fourths pound was netted in a few moments. This method, though requiring extra greasing of the leader, has been the undoing of quite a few fish in deep slow water. Leader greasing is a good method of regulating the depth at which the fly travels.

A consistently rising fish in a deep riffle gave me the next lesson. The time was mid-afternoon with a fair hatch of flies over the water. I felt certain the flies were dropping on the broken surface to drag eggs and the fish were feeding freely upon them. After trying dry many patterns and sizes, I concluded that the proper pattern was not in my fly box. The lack of more dry flies prompted me to try a blue quill nymph. Imagine my surprise when I felt the fish as soon as the nymph touched the water. Several more fish were hooked or touched with the hook in this same riffle. All that was necessary was to drop the fly close to each rising fish.

Another fish in a deep glide wanted the fly rolling on the bottom. Here I was confronted with a strong current which frustrated all attempts to sink the fly. There was fully a five foot depth of strong current over this fish which lay in front of a large submerged rock. The entire tenfoot leader was rubbed thoroughly with mud to assure sinking and the line was greased. About 18 inches above the fly was placed a piece of lead fuse wire, enough to keep the fly down. To complete the sinking the cast was dropped about 20 feet above the fish. The greased line floated well as I watched it where it connected with the leader. After several casts and two or three exciting stops caused by the fly snagging bottom momentarily, I saw the line make a decided movement against the current and uponquiries I was fast to the fish. This method is exactly inasmuch as well over 90 per cent of the stops you receive are false, the fly snagging bottom. Just the same, it is necessary to strike at each pause in the drift as you never know when you have a bonus side strike. It is not unusual to strike at the flash of the shadow of a bird flying overhead, or a flash of light on the water.

Not all fishing is done upstream. Standish about the center rear or on the edge of a long slow pool, it is often productive to cast to the point where it intersects. Allow the fly to drift naturally to the tail or outlet. At this point, providing you have not had a strike begin a slow methodic retrieve, keeping the fly in the slower water near the edge of the current.

On large streams or those open enough to permit it, cross-stream casting is also a productive method. The system here is to cast across and slightly upstream. If you drop the fly on the far side of the current a large boat or another one will occur causing the fly to drag cross stream. Varies was occasionally be jerking the fly easily on the drag. This is a very effective system for other under surface flies also and the majority of strikes occur when the fly reaches the zenith of the arc. The fly often
VERTIN WENT FISHING ON THE WILLIAMSPORT RIVER DURING THE SPRING. A representative from the Galeton club discussed the closing of Pine Creek to sucker fishing from November 30 to April 15.

A representative from the Galeton club discussed the closing of Pine Creek to sucker fishing from November 30 to April 15.

APPOINTED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONFEDERATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED SPORTSMEN OF YORK COUNTY TO BE HELD THIS MONTH WERE C. W. REXFORD AND H. D. AUSTIN, WITH THOMAS PRAHMER, FISH WARDEN, HALEY, DEER TRAIL INN.

TROUT OUT OF SEASON COST FISHERMAN $235.

Mild days in early Spring arouse in many an ardent angler an urge to go trout fishing, an urge which he must keep in check until the arrival of April 15, when state law says that he may legally indulge in the sport.

Henry Bertin, 61, Collomsville R. D., felt this urge on March 23 and responded to it, with the result that he is now out $235.05 in cash.

Bertin went fishing on the Williamsport Water Company's Mosquito Valley property. He found, as many a more prudent fishing enthusiast would think were the case, that the fish were biting quite well.

In a few hours of fishing, Bertin got 17 brook trout—ranging from 4 to 10 inches in length, eight of them being of less than legal size.

Bertin's luck was limited to his fishing, however.

Leaving the stream, he encountered Allen Ascher, deputy game protector, one of four men who, under the leadership of Carl A. Bidelman, fish warden, had established watch over the area to check reports that persistent trout fishing was being indulged in by persons who couldn't wait for April 15 to come around.

Taken before Alderman Charles F. Jackson for trial on charges preferred by Bidelman, Bertin pleaded guilty.

He was fined $170 for the fish in his possession—at $10 each. An additional fine of $25 was imposed for fishing without a license. To this was added another $25 for fishing unposted tributary streams on Sunday without the permission of the owner. Costs brought the total to $235.05.

Bertin paid in cash.

DISCUSS SUCKER FISHING IN BIG PINE

The regular meeting of the newly organized Pine Creek Sportsmen's Club was held at the Deer Trail Inn on April 3 with Game Wardens Leslie Wood and Hugh Baker; Fish Wardens, Leland Cloos, Middletown and Kenneth Aley, Galeton, present as guests.

A representative from the Galeton club discussed the closing of Pine Creek to sucker fishing from November 30 to April 15.

Appointed to attend the annual meeting of the Confederation of the Consolidated Sportsmen of York County to be held this month were C. W. Rexford and H. D. Austin, with Harold Proudy and John Gearick named alternates.

It was explained at the meeting that 41 mature ringneck pheasants had been distributed in the Galeton region by the local game protectors.

SCHOOL CASTING CLUB FORMED

The open meeting of the Fly and Bait Casting Club of the Dunmore Senior High School in the school gymnasium was a complete success with, by actual count, 250 sportmen in attendance. A program on fishing and sportsmanship was presented.

Samuel Truscott, of Dalton, a member of the fish commission, was the principal speaker and his remarks were well received by the audience. Moving pictures shown by Keith Harter, county fish warden, were enjoyed by the large gathering. Paul W. Gardner, president of United Sportmen, Camp No. 63, in his talk emphasized the need of conservation if the youngsters of today are to enjoy any fishing when they reach man's estate.

Following the program Mr. Gardner met with the boys of the club and he invited them to become affiliated with the junior organization of the United Sportmen. Camp No. 63. In a discussion between Mr. Gardner, Floyd C. Baker, treasurer of the Sportmen's camp and members of the club, the aim of the club was set for stream improvement. Mr. Baker, through whose efforts the program was arranged, and Warden Harter offered their cooperation and guidance to the school club. Prof. James Gillett, member of the faculty, is advisor to the organization.

JUNIATA SPORTSMEN OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY

Almost 100 members of the Juniata County Sportmen's Association celebrated the first anniversary of the founding of their organization at a banquet in the Millfleet Fire Hall in March. A baked ham dinner was served by the fire company auxiliary.

Principal speaker of the evening was the editor of the Angler. A native of Lewistown, he is well known to local sportsmen, having hunted in Juniata County and fished in all of its streams.

Another speaker was Charles V. Long, of East Waterford, State Fish Warden in this district. Thad S. Jamison, of McAllisterville, vice president of the club, acted as toastmaster.

It was announced at the meeting that the association will establish a rifle range on the lands of Francis Cooper, secretary-treasurer of the organization near Spruce Hill. The members of the club met there on April 8 to prepare the range for high-power and small-bore rifle matches.
TO THOSE of our readers who fished one of Pennsylvania's major trout waters on opening day of the season, it is not necessary to call attention to the crowded condition on the stream. No better illustration of the rapid growth in popularity of the angling sport is needed. With the number of licensed anglers approaching 400,000 in Pennsylvania last year and present indications pointing to the presence of an equal or even larger number of fishermen on our state waters this year, it is necessary that we face hard facts concerning this grand recreational sport. It was estimated several years ago, even before the sharp rise in license sales, that if every licensed fisherman in the Commonwealth decided to take to the fishable streams on a certain day, there would be approximately 100 feet of stream available to each angler. Looking at it from another angle, and assuming that every fishing license holder had decided last year to fish for trout, there would have been available, roughly speaking about 3/4 trout of legal size, stocked from the hatcheries during 1938, for each fisherman. While this estimate is obviously extreme, for not all and perhaps not more than half of our great army of fishermen angle for trout, it serves to illustrate the intensive demands now being placed upon the fish production program in Pennsylvania.

The problem, then, is one of "supply and demand", the supply primarily dependent at the present time, particularly in the instance of trout, on the hatchery production of legal size fish, and the demand hinging directly upon the number of fishermen taking to the streams. In the past, it has been pointed out that drought, flood and predators have strongly affected the carrying capacity of our trout waters, making spring stocking of legal trout the best insurance for good fishing in most streams. Usually on smaller streams, after the first two or three days at the opening of the season, the stock of hatchery fish is very much depleted, but the sport they afford during that period makes the trout season opening, April 15, a day red-lettered on the calendar of every ardent trout fisherman. Another factor having its influence on trout fishing in Pennsylvania is the limited mileage of water suitable for holding trout within her borders. For their sport, the trout fishermen must congregate on these waters and overfishing is almost certain to result.

An effective stream improvement device. Log and stone dam constructed on Swope Creek, Lehigh county.

Opening day of the trout season on the Little Lehigh, Lehigh county.

How, then, may more favorable conditions as related to trouting be brought about? We must recognize the vast benefits, both physical and mental, accruing to the public through this healthful outdoor sport. The recreational value of fishing to the people makes it desirable that not only those who at the present time enjoy it take to stream and lake but that others come to realize its benefits. We discussed last month the natural barriers to good trout fishing in many of our waters. Granted that, under present conditions, the carrying capacity of trout streams may be brought to the highest possible standard from the angle of forage and suitable cover, we can do no more than hope that the underground water sources of our streams be restored through snowfall and rainfall to their capacity prior to the drought years. That still lets the problem of improved trouting for the angler in this year 1939 very much up in the air.

At various times, we have heard the following suggestions offered and present them for your consideration. First, reduction of the present daily creel limit from 10 to, say, 6 legal size trout a day and setting of a reasonable season limit. Second, shortening the trout season by lopping off the month of July, when it has been contended, fishing for bass and other warm water species occupies the attention of most fishermen and extremely low water prevails in many trout streams. Third, reducing the age limit for those required to take out a fishing license from 16 years, as prevails at the present time, to 14 years, thus bringing in to the Fish Fund additional revenue for increased production of fish at the hatcheries and improvement of environmental conditions for fish life in the public fishing waters.
Fourth, the closing of trout waters approved for stocking with legal size trout to all types of fishing except trout fishing during the regular open season for trout. While the writer is an ardent sucker fisherman, it is believed that this restriction would work little hardship on the sucker fishermen and, with such a regulation in force, every angler would get an even break on the "red letter" trout day just as the small game hunter starts his sport in the cover with opening of the small game season. Fifth, the closing of trout nursery waters to all fishing during specific allotted periods. This plan has been tried out and proved satisfactory in several counties, Clinton, Tioga and Lycoming, by the Fish Commission which has been given splendid support by the organized sportsmen of the counties mentioned. Excellent fishing for trout, under special regulations, on Cedar Run, Slate Run and the Right Hand Branch of Young Woman's Creek, the streams effected, was enjoyed last season.

These suggestions directly affect the fishermen and as such require their united support if they are to be realized, in whole or in part. The licensed angler pays the bill and his desires must be regarded in any drive for betterment of his sport. He may also play a vital role in two important phases of environmental betterment for trout, stream improvement and predator control.

Notable work in stream improvement has been accomplished by a number of sportsmen's organizations during the past five years. Installation of carefully constructed current deflectors, and, in some instances, waterjack dams, has been a feature of this program. Willow planting to provide additional shore cover and to serve as an aid in checking erosion has been another important phase in the program. Permanent stream improvement, even when carefully planned and executed, must be regarded as nothing more than an auxiliary to improving living conditions for trout. To expect immediate restoration of a depleted food supply through installation of improvement devices is obviously absurd. Over a period of years, however, granted that the water levels in an improved stream remain fairly constant, properly located log and boulder deflectors and, in some instances, waterjack dams should prove distinct assets in development of additional forage and improving living conditions for trout. Well-anchored bundles of brush also may prove beneficial in increasing forage.

Without doubt, the watersnake ranks as the outstanding predator on fish life in Pennsylvania waters today. Its high rate of reproduction and its adeptness in taking trout and other fish, particularly during low water periods in July and August when it is most active, causes it to rate primary consideration in our intensively fished streams. That organized sportsmen are not only alert to this reptile's threat to their fishing but are taking active steps to combat it is borne out by the following splendid report submitted by the Huntingdon County Game, Fish and Forestry Association at the association's annual dinner on March 24. This survey of the 1938 watersnake campaign was presented by Bill Harlin, director of predator control for the Huntingdon association.

"It is generally conceded that watersnakes account for the destruction of a great number of our game and food fishes. With this in mind, we will attempt to prove the definite advantage that results from any campaign that removes these predators from our inland waters.

"As a result of Control Campaigns conducted previous to this year, the Association has paid bounties on 1209 watersnakes at a total expense of $60.65. Last year, the records show that the Association paid bounties on 1586 water-snakes at a total cost of $79.30.

"For the purpose of this survey, let us assume that watersnakes are active five months out of a year. Let us assume further that, during this period of activity, each watersnake will kill one small fish every three days or fifty small fish each year. Assuming that one watersnake will kill fifty fish each year, the 1586

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TROUTING TIPS AND TACTICS

By C. L. PETERS

The important consideration in any type of fishing, whether it be fly, bait or plug, is that the angler see in your offering some inducement to strike at or rather accept it as a part of their daily menu. It is just as necessary to use high pressure salesmanship to induce a wiley old trout to accept an artificial lure as it is for a bogus stock salesman to make a sale. Possibly if we were all able to see with the eyes of a trout, we could readily understand why trout disdain our every effort at times. The artificial must not only have at least some semblance of the natural food, but we must present it in a convincing manner. We can manipulate a wet fly or bucktail almost to suit our own fancy by twitching the rod tip slowly, or fast as the occasion might demand. Fishing across the currents will often bring results when casting directly up or down stream merits no reward. Directly upstream or downstream merits no reward. The water conditions must be taken into consideration and a fly used that can be readily seen by the fish. For late evening fly fishing or when the water is high or discolored try a rather large fly of a light color. Some top notch anglers invariably change to a size 12 fan wing royal coachman when dusk arrives. Windy weather will sometimes necessitate a change of tactics, as land insects are sometimes blown into riffles and currents.

In selecting wet flies, one should have a fair knowledge of the insect life on the stream he expects to fish. There are a countless number of wet fly patterns as well as those in the nymphal stage offered for sale, but if you are anxious to interest the fish in your wares try to show them something on which they are accustomed to feeding. Several years ago I encountered a small boy digging in the mud along one of our prominent trout streams. I noticed as he diligently turned over the silt in his hands he frequently picked out the object of his search and deposited it in a minnow bucket. I ventured closer and finally asked what he was gathering. "Stick Worms," was the prompt reply, "did ya ever use em." "Well no," I admitted, "I don't think I ever heard of stick worms before." "Well, Mister," said the boy, "if you ain't never used stick worms, you ain't never fished much, or ain't never caught many fish." I looked the stick worms over and found them to be Stenophylax scardipennis, the pupa stage of the Caddis fly. Many times since I have thought of that boy and his knowledge of the fact that trout prefer their usual menu to a possible diet of unknown quality. In addition to the insects native to the stream beds, there are certain flies designed to attract trout by reason of their flash and luminous appearance as they dart hither and thither through riffles and currents.

Dry Flies

Dry fly selection is even more exacting. We are not only confronted by the duplication of the natural insect, whether that duplication be a true copy or impressionistic, but we must select flies that will wear well and function properly in response to the action imparted by the rod. In selecting flies always remember that any fly is only as good as the material used in its construction and THE HACKLE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF ANY DRY FLY. Hackle with any amount of fluff along the center rib is absolutely useless for dry fly construction. These hackles have a tendency to become water soaked and with the added weight of the fly they will submerge. Stiff glossy hackles require careful selection on the part of the fly tier but are a credit to his workmanship as well as a boon to the angler using them. Good hackles will support a fly so as to make it float high and dry, not partly submerged, but resting on the hackles tips. I much prefer to fly a fish of the palmer of bi-visible type providing the hackles are tied sparsely up to the thorax, and of good material. Just a word as to the proper size fly to use. During early season when the water is usually very high, a rather large fly is necessary and I would suggest a size 12, and if conditions warrant it even a size 10 may be resorted to. However, the real finesse of fly fishing becomes more necessary later in the season when the water is considerably lower and smaller flies such as sizes 14 and 16 are favored more by the trout. I have some friends who are excellent fishermen who use the very small size 18 flies almost exclusive of all others during the latter part of the season. Then, too, with the change of fly size we must remember that for high and turbulent water when large flies are invariably used most any type of moderately heavy gut will serve for a leader, but when the water becomes low it is necessary to use finer, more delicate terminal tackle. Sometimes for the smaller sizes of flies, tippets as fine as .006 seem necessary. Personally I would not advise using anything finer than .008 for the reason that .006 gut has only a two pound test rating. Tie it to your fly and you will see it appear at the eye of the fly for a few casts and it is very doubtful whether it would actually stand more than a one pound test. I have lost more flies in fish than on the fly, due to the use of too small a test gut than for any other reason.

I remember well an instance on Clark's Creek one evening when the trout were very selective. My son and I were fishing the same water using size 18 flies and two pound test tippets attached to the business end of our leaders. I in the pool directly above our position we could see two trout rising steadily, one at the lip of the pool and the other further up where the fast water tailed off. Cautiously my son and I sneaked quietly within casting distance of the closer trout.
I detoured through the brush and crawled up to the creek on my stomach in order to approach without unnecessary disturbance. We both cast simultaneously and at almost the same instant the two trout struck and with the same mechanical precision the two slack lines were retrieved sans flies. Needleless to say after a lucky post mortem we lost no time in changing to a more substantial mooring for our floats.

**Minnows and Bucktails**

Minnows and bucktail fishing provide many thrills when trout refuse to rise to the daintiest morsel on the surface of the water. It is a conceded fact that the larger trout are more often tempted with a well presented minnow than in any other manner. It seems that in different localities there is a tendency toward a particular method of using minnows. In some sections they simply attach the minnow by hooking it through the lips. In other sections the minnow will bend a darting needle with a notch filed out of the eye. The leader knot is inserted in the eye and the needle inserted in the minnow’s mouth and pushed through to protrude at the anal fin. The needle is then removed and a small double hook attached to the leader and the shank drawn into the minnow. This method proves to be very effective. When trout are striking short and snapping the tails from the minnows as they are prone to do at times, a good method is to invert the hook in the mouth and out through the gill. Then pass the hook through the lips and draw it back to the tail where it is imbedded in the flesh. By drawing the leader tight the minnow will bend slightly into an arc causing it to spin when it is retrieved. A small swivel should be used in this method.

When the much desired red fin minnows cannot be secured try making your own by painting the fins and a stripe along each side of an ordinary minnow with mercurochrome. I have seen this method turn the trick when others failed. Bucktail fishing is much to be recommended, especially for those who have gone into the ever increasing pastime of tying their own with the permission of the Editor permit me to introduce a new minnow bucket and does not deplete the stream of the natural food. There are on the market today some very good imitations of the natural minnow. Some of these lures actually seem alive as they dart through the water. For those who have gone into the ever increasing pastime of tying their own, with the permission of the Editor permit me to introduce a new minnow bucket and does not deplete the stream of the natural food. There are on the market today some very good imitations of the natural minnow. Some of these lures actually seem alive as they dart through the water. For those who have gone into the ever increasing pastime of tying their own, with the permission of the Editor permit me to introduce a new

**McKEAN ADDRESSES CRAWFORD SPORTSMEN**

Merrl Bideaux, of Woodcockboro, was elected president of the Crawford County Branch, Sportsman’s Council, at the organization’s annual meeting—held in the third floor Bates assembly rooms with an attendance of more than 400 persons.

In a business session featured by the appearance of J. Fred McKeen, of New Kensington, member of the Pennsylvania Board of Fish Commissioners, and by the council’s decision to institute a spring dinner for sportsmen as an annual affair, the group also elected: Jack Hooper, of Meadville, vice president; Herman L. Weed, Lincolnville, financial secretary; Dr. George H. Boebles, Linesville, corresponding secretary; C. W. Fay, Titusville, treasurer, and Ivan E. Burkley, Cambridge Springs, as county director.

In reference to the annual spring dinner for sportsmen, the committee to arrange for the event comprises the new president, Mr. Bideaux, and the directors of the organization’s 16 county chapters.

Member McKeen of the fish commission told the Crawford County sportsmen that the state’s fishermen “own nine hatcheries and 2,000 acres of land,” and detailed the commission’s 1938 fish stocking program. He urged organization of junior fishing projects and emphasized the fact that the commission is anxious to cooperate in such undertakings by supplying carp, suckers and other fish for stocking purposes. Youngsters “join” these junior organizations and files have gone into the ever increasing pastime of tying their own, with the permission of the Editor permit me to introduce a new

**PENNNSYLVANIA ANGLER**

The speaker urged that all fishermen fill out the blank coming with the fish law summary at the sale of the license, so that the commission may have means of knowing how many fish and what kind were caught during each season.

Other speakers appearing during the evening included District Game Protector George W. Keppner of Meadville, Travelling Game Protector John Kennedy, of Titusville, District Game Warden Gerald Munson of Linesville, Pymatuning Refuge Keeper Burt Ondelit, and various officers of the council organization. Ondelit introduced Raymond Sickles, a recent graduate of the game commission training school, who has been assigned to the Pymatuning as an assistant refuge keeper.

Various directors of community chapters reported, including W. A. Jackson, Conneaut Lake; A. B. Campbell, Espyville; Theodore Bartholomew, Titusville; Herman Weed, Cass–
dohta; Charles Marzka, Brown Hill; Rev. Mr. Webster for Springboro; Dr. Bushfield, for Linesville; Mr. Fuller for Centerville; Dr. Daniels for Woodcock–Venango, and W. S. Murray for Meadville.

On motion of Murray, the council voted to give honorary memberships to all game and fish wardens stationed in the county.

Jack Hudek, president of the Meadville chapter, was general chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements, and O. A. Speakman headed a committee serving sandwiches and coffee for lunch. The meeting was held in the assembly rooms of the Slide Fastener Union.

The retiring county officers are: Richard S. Strous, Sugerstown, as president; Bideaux as vice–president; Burkley as secretary, and Weed as county director. Fay was re-elected for his third term as treasurer. Burkley had served two terms as secretary.
ANYBODY CAN CATCH TROUT

By N. R. CASILLO

The title of this piece is an assertion—and with articifials too. All that the angler needs to do is locate the fish and find them in the mood. Parenthetically, however, the truth of the allegation is more than realized when one does encounter the conditions indicated regardless of what you use for lures, barring neither cellulose cigar jackets nor gaudily colored chewing gum wrappers.

At the moment I can't recall when I caught my first trout, but can only too vividly remember the time when I saw my first big one. It was at Profile Lake in New Hampshire. While peering down into the water under the boat dock, much to my astonishment and discomfiture, a scale bursting through the water near the upper end of the famous trout lake and asked the inevitable: "How they bitin' buddy?"

"I've got a few," I replied modestly, said modestly however, camouflaging the elation that surged through me as I lifted the lid of my well-filled creel.

"Holy smokes!" he cried. "Would you look at that?" And just as I had calculated, all of his companions gazed and gasped.

"What are you using?" he asked curiously.

"I'm fishing wet with a Seth Green and a Yellow Sally," I replied.

"Oh yeah—oh well, I can't blame you for not wanting to tell how you caught them there fish," he answered ruefully.

"But..." I admonished, and then instead of attempting to explain, I reeled in my line and showed him the two wet flies on the thin leader.

"Oh, I see—fishin' fancy. Buddy, where can I borrow an outfit?"

"You might be able to get one at the hotel," I ventured.

A couple of hours later as I passed the house on my way up to the hotel, the two staggered through the door dragging a string of trout that caused me to give a couple of gasps. I reserved my opinions but guessed that they were bent on feeding speckled trout to the entire Akron delegation. The hankering for coarse fare (and doubtlessly a square meal) was the undoing of those sophisticated aristocrats accustomed to a diet of feathers and steel bars.

Several years ago while fishing Little Sand Creek in Venango County, I encountered a fisherman who had just emerged from a tangle of alders bordering a small tributary. After exchanging a few idle remarks I glanced into his creel as he replenished it with fresh moss and aquatic plants. Much to my amazement it was almost filled with trout, all brookies as near as I could make out.

"That's a fine bunch of fish you have there," I remarked.
The fellow, who appeared to be a farmer, "recounted it was," and obligingly dumped them out on the greenward to give me a better view.

"Golly, they’re all natives," I said, surprised at the uncommon size of most of them.

"That little creek I fished contains nothing but speckled trout—yes sir, honest-to-goodness wild trout," he added with satisfaction.

"What did you get them on?"

"On worms and this," he answered, holding up a queer contraption made of a section of a yellow lead pencil, a couple of Rhode Island Red haacle feathers and a long-slancheded hook.

"The worm goes on this way," he demonstrated, loopings the wriggling worm a couple of times before impaling it.

The unusual contrivance was something to be envied in a munific’s dream, but the important thing was that it worked. At that, I am inclined to think that the worm played the most important role.

During a most unusual orgy of hosing that seized the trout in Little Salmon Creek in Forest County a couple of years ago, I caught eight fish in less than twenty minutes with eight different flies.

At two P. M., my three companions had quit the stream in disgust. I suggested that they go on up to the car and eat lunch while waiting for me. At exactly 2:20 I arrived at a long, deep pool, a place that had failed to produce a single fish on a previous visit earlier in the day. This time I swished a Gray Gnat across its lower end and laid it in a pocket close to the roots of a big hemlock. In an instant the still surface was dimpled and I found myself fast to an eight inch native.

The next cast with the same fly failed to elicit a rise, so I quickly changed to a Black Midge. The first cast with this fly also looked a fish. By the time the fish had quit hitting, some fifteen minutes later, I had used successfully, flies ranging from the original Gray Gnat that I had had on, to a ridiculously large Red Ibis. Incidentally, in the dozen or more years that I had had the Ibis in my possession, this was the first time I had ever hooked a fish with it.

Upon interviewing each of the three anglers that I encountered while returning to the car, they all reported the unusual activity of the trout during the twenty minute interval shortly after two o’clock. My waiting companions upon seeing the fish, expressed their wonder, took another nip from the bottle and opined that I was a good fisherman.

Perhaps some of you who have had more experience than I can account how a wary trout—yes sir, honest-to-goodness wild trout—"he added with satisfaction.

I have in mind a twenty-inch brown who lived under a stump in Neshannock Creek, a short distance above the bridge on the New Wilmington-Volant road. For two successive mornings anglers throughout the district attempted to entice the fish into taking a lure, but none succeeded. The big trout continued waving fast and growing in wisdom and girth. Its Nemesis proved to be a lad from New Castle who was wont to go from stream to stream and dunk a handful of worms fastened to a hook into the most likely looking holes.

That trout had seen thousands of worms presented in every way imaginable, had viewed scores of fishermen from under its retreat in the stream, and had possibly learned knowingly at all kinds of artificialis and those grotesque "fish getters" that are frequently advertised. At last, however, it couldn’t withstand that impulse or something, and ignominiously ended a brilliant career in the dim confines of a small gum tree shag that the boy used for a creel. An incident that again proves that if one is on a stream when the fish are on the prowl he will connect with any lure or bait, or expressed more succinctly, in spite of what he may be using.

I can well remember when I passed through that phase of what I like to term "super-scientific" angling, induced by my reading of angling articles by English authorities. That was when I carried a small scissors dangling from my neck, examined them minutely with my magnifier and then proceeded to "create" one from the makings that bulged from the numerous pockets of my English fishing jacket.

It was a great breach of fishing etiquette to venture forth on an angling excursion without first taking the barometer and thermometer readings, note the direction of the wind if any, and as a final ceremony, dunk the thermometer in the stream upon my arrival thereon. Why? Search me.

The rest of the day was spent in covertly creeping from bush to tree or leaping flat on the ground when approaching some likely spot. No different in degree than the tactics employed by ye scientific golfer who carries everything but a surveyor’s transit. That comparison is made to remind you that anglers are not the only nuts.

Here are two or three hints about cooking fish which were recently suggested by cookery specialists who have been studying the proper methods of preparing fish and sea foods.

CONSIDER THESE HINTS IN COOKING THE CATCH

In boiling or broiling fish do it quickly to keep in the flavor, allowing from eight to ten minutes per inch thickness of fish, with a temperature of 450° to 500° Fahrenghet. Long, slow cooking is not required since fish have little connective tissue requiring to be softened.

CONCLUSION: Anybody can catch trout.
By gorry, 10 yeres back ef a feller hed sed ter me they'd be sech a gatherin' o' trout fishers furst day o' the seazun, I'd a called him plum looney. Thet crick o' our'n wuz so durned crowded thet it seemed like every hole hed five er six lines in it an' more fellers waitin' in the brush ter step in when sumbody moved on. Durned near laffed my hed off when a fisher hooked inter a 10 inch speckled trout at the bridge hole Thet trout hed six lines eround it when it wuz pulled out an' the boys hed ter untangle the lines ter find out which un hed ketched it.

Jest the same, crowd er no, you never seed sech a fine bunch o' gude cleen sports. They hed a grate time kiddin' back an' forth an' most o' them took fish. Jest 1 feller I seed that shure hed a yeller streek broder'n the wite stripe on a skunk. He wuz afishin' rite below me an' he hosses in a leetle spreckled trout that jest to luke at, you'd no wuzn't more'n five inches long. Hed it huked deep on a worm an' what du he do but tare out the hook an' part o' the trout's belly an' gills with it. Then he mazures it an' when he finds it short throws it back inter the water hard ez he can. That made me bile all over, an' when I got thru tellin' him jest whut I figgured he goes down crick in a hurry jest like a beat daug. Sum o' the other boys hed seed it, tew, an' he wuz so allfired unpopolar frum then on that he packs up an' leaves the crick. Good thing, fer fellers like thet spoil the fishin' fer gude sports.

Hooked inter that ol' grandaddy I wuz talkin' about last munth an' he's still thare to be tuke. It wuz jest gettin' gude at' lite over the ridge when I flotes a nice red worm down inter the hole. Thet ol' speckled trout didn't hit with a whim. Nosirree, he jest take it hate with a few hefty tugs. I sets the hook, an' durned ef he didn't pull the same thing on me he did last seazun. Hedrile for under an ol' sunken log at the lower end o' the hole an' afore you cud say jack Robinson hed me tangled up, minks 1 sashay from the top o' the water an' away goes the line.

Pigger I'll be hevin' a grate time tryin' ter outsmart him this seazun, Ellick, an' he's every bit o' 17 inches ef he's a inch.
Fellow Sportsmen Honor G. A. Stewart at Testimonial Dinner in Clearfield

SPORTSMEN from twelve counties gathered in Clearfield on the evening of March 23 for the testimonial dinner in honor of G. Albert Stewart, Secretary of Forests and Waters. The event was attended by the Governor as he is affectionately known by many fellow anglers in central Pennsylvania. Harris G. Breth, in his light and humorous address, endeavored to see the good in every situation, and to look at the bright side of every problem. The dinner was attended by several state executives apparently overjoyed with the event.

Sportsmen, here's news! News of complete cooperation between the Forests and Waters Department and the Game and Fish Commissions which has long been necessary for the proper conservation, protection, and propagation of Pennsylvania's wildlife. In appointing G. A. Stewart as Secretary of Forests and Waters, Governor James was pleased by his ability to elicit from the crowd of sportsmen from twelve counties. And to show you why the dinner was given him, I'm going to quote part of the report which appeared the next day in the Clearfield Progress:

"Secretary G. A. Stewart cast off the cloak of official duties last night to become just plain "G. A." again to 230 neighbors and fellow sportsmen, who gathered here in his honor. The testimonial dinner was marked by pledges of cooperation between the Forests and Waters and the fishermen and hunters whose interests he helps to promote.

"Besides being hailed as a No. 1 fisherman and No. 1 citizen, the Clearfield man was given the unreserved endorsement of the Pennsylvania Angler as a 'fisherman who fished for the fun of it whether the fish are biting or not.' A. J. Haines of St. Marys, President of the North Central organized sportsmen, expressed high pleasure that an ardent sportsman, who knows the forests and selected as Governor James to the Forests and Waters Department. "We know that we have a friend there, and one who will work for our interests," he said.

"Mr. Stewart recounted several fishing experiences and paid tribute to this sport. "Fishing makes brothers of men," he said, "regardless of their politics or creed." He also appealed to sportsmen to be careful of forest fires which are one of their greatest enemies."

It seems to me that dinner marked a red letter event in the recent annals of sport in Pennsylvania. There was unbounded enthusiasm, and although the spotlight was directed at "G. A." himself, in the long run it means better sport for every individual hunter, fisherman, or sportsman by linking the state's entire outdoor activities in common purpose.

What I mean by that is that we need the forests for hunting and the waters for fishing. And while the Game and Fish Commissions administer the Game and Fish Laws and License Funds for the sportsmen, nevertheless many situations arise from time to time involving the Forest and Waters Department which can be solved only by all three seeing eye to eye.

I believe no one knows this better than Secretary Stewart, and that he is already and willing to do his part is shown when he said during his after dinner talk, "The Department of Forests and Waters is separate and apart from the Forest and Fish Commissions but they are closely related. There should be the highest degree of cooperation. My hope is to have that cooperation. My hope is to give it."

No sportsman need be told the far reaching effects of this attitude on the part of the Forests and Waters Department.

At this dinner J. N. Morton of the Bureau of Refuges and Lands, State Game Commission, gave endorser some of the facts given by Alex Sweigart, editor of the Angler. After he had recounted several fishing episodes with G. A. Stewart long before he was given his present Cabinet post he stated that about 500,000 legal trout from 7 to 12 inches long were ready to be stocked. The reason for this huge number was that the underground water table was insufficient to maintain an adequate flow in most of the trout streams last fall and trout ready then couldn't be stocked. He predicted one of the best seasons in years.

He gave a few tips on first of the season lures, suggesting "streamers and boats" or "garden hackle," saying that big trout around 20 inches can be taken particularly with streamers. I agree.

All in all, the dinner for Secretary Stewart was not a testimonial but a celebration in which all sportsmen from far and near joined. From Pittsburgh came W. E. Guckert, Secretary of the Allegheny County Sportsman's League, and A. F. Menzemer, Treasurer of the South Western Division of Pennsylvania's Federated Sportsmen. With them they carried an invitation from the South Western Division to "G. A." to speak at a sportsman's conclave in Pittsburgh April 20th, which he accepted.

Secretary Joe Barkley of Punxsutawney and Treasurer Bill Mussell, Emporium, of the North Central Division, were there and voted their approval of the new F. & W. Secretary. Howard Stewart of Clearfield, former member of the Game Commission, acted as toastmaster. His introductory remarks, proving there is no relationship between the two Stewarts and good natured banter throughout the evening, gave an informal friendly touch to the entire program. No doubt many Venango sportsmen who attended the testimonial dinner for Charlie Stone at Mercer in January remember his abilities as toastmaster there.

So, sportsmen, I hope the "Forum" has today given you an understandable picture of the new Secretary of Forests and Waters. His many friends among active hunters and fishermen, his outdoors experience, his sportsmanship qualities—all summed up can mean but one thing—most important to you—complete cooperation in Pennsylvania's three administration divisions on the problems facing Pennsylvania's wildlife.

SUGGESTS CAMPAIGN TO BEAUTIFY STREAMS

The Pennsylvania Angler reaches many persons who are interested in keeping the streams in Pennsylvania beautiful and clean, writes Roy W. Schweiker, of Lansdale.

It is a common sight, when walking along many of Pennsylvania's streams—and I refer particularly to Montgomery County, but I do not believe that this county is any exception—to see an endless amount of tin cans, glass bottles, etc., that have been washed into the streams.

Many folks feel that when they have a ditch or a stream on their property it should be used for a common dump. When flood waters rise, the ditch becomes a tributary to a stream, and the result is that many pretty streams are becoming littered with unnecessary refuse.

It has occurred to the writer that through the medium of your paper you could carry on a general educational program so that the precocious dumping of waste materials along streams would be discouraged. Over a period of years it would seem that this condition could be bettered to a great extent.
HOOP SNAKES

By PAUL L. SWANSON

EVERY so often one of them herpetologists (them guys as studies snakes and such like) tries to tell us that milk snakes don't make (whip snakes don't whip and glass snakes ain't glass. And that they ain't no such thing as a hoop snake. Now just because we don't see no hoop skirts no more ain't no reason to say that they ain't no such thing as a hoop skirt. Same way with the hoop snake. Who knows but one of these days they will both be common again?

I got a sister that got a lot of books, and I just looked up in Eva's great big dictionary about hoops and hoop snakes. Yes, it got hoop snake in it, and it says this: "A harmless snake of the southern United States (Abastor erythrogrammus) . . ." They are wrong about the southern United States, because we got them up here too. Then one of the things it says about "hoop" is this "4. The quantity of drink contained between any two adjacent hoops of a quart pot . . . obs." I don't know what obs means; maybe observant. As for that abastor erythrogrammus thing, I suppose that's the Latin name, although it looks like Greek to me.

Just in case some of you younger guys don't know nothing about hoop snakes, I'll tell you what they are like. Most of them are about ten feet long. Lots of guys like to exaggerate and say that they seen twenty foot ones; but most guys figgur snakes is like fish, and you got to add a little to the size on account of the guys you tell it to is going to take some off anyway. They are about as big around as my wrist. Just in case you not familiar with sizes of snakes, there are only four sizes. As big around as your thigh; as your arm; as your little finger. There are different standards of measuring length, depending on what kind of country you are in. Around here the big ones are as long as a length of casing (This is oil country, and casing is usually in 20 ft. lengths.) Medium sized ones are as long as a fence rail; average ones are as long as the narrator is tall, and small ones we just spread our hands. One measure­ment that is standard everywhere is that a fairly large snake stretches a foot on either side of a pair of auto tracks on a dirt road, when the snake is kind of wrinkly.

Well, I've sort of wandered off my description of the hoop snake. Some smarties have got to calling them "Hoople Snakes" in sort of an intimating way; but they just don't know. A full grown hoop snake looks quite a bit like a wamper. (The wamper is a cross of a mountain black snake and a rattler. If a six foot black snake bred with a five foot rattler, the result is an eleven foot wamper.) The hoop snake is mostly black on top an' white or mottled underneath. Don't believe them stories about the fancy colors. What makes them dangerous is the horn that they got to hit something when they are in that mood, so they usually hit a cherry tree, which withers up and dies in short order.

One friend of mine told me about the time a hoop snake came after him when he was working on his wagon. Al had just killed a nest of mice under the wagon, which probably made the snake sore, because down he came! Al dodged the snake, but the critter hit the wagon tongue. That night they sawed up three cords of wood from that tongue. So Al though he would raise hoop snakes and prevent any possible shortage in the timber supply. But I explained to him that if they couldn't get the weed they used for poison, they wouldn't be able to swell up any trees, and it would be too dangerous to let them run loose. Here in Venango County a few years ago the copperheads were so thick that they became

HOOP SNAKE

The snake is now rolling alone. Note how the central surface is kept next to ground.
a real nuisance in the fields when we had to cut our wheat. My friend Chuck had a good idea. He got a few hoop snakes in with the binder and put up the cornstalks in shocks, tied with the hoop snakes. That's what I'm told, but I don't think hoop snakes would do it. They are probably trying to spoof me.

Another one that I don't believe is about the moonshiner in Cameron county whose kinfolk shot right through a squirrel and cut a loop of the leg which wasn't in good shape anyway. The shiner persuaded his pet hoop snake to hold the leg together until he could make repairs. The snake grabbed the top of the leg with its mouth and coiled around it three times and stuck the tip of his tail in the wood near the bottom, so he could hold on more easily. Since his tail was "charged" the keg swelled up to the size of a hogshead. This of course stretched the snake so much that it broke in two. Something like the story stretches the imagination.

The pictures you see along with this treatise are the only pictures that have ever been taken of a hoop snake in action. I was awful lucky to get them, as the snake wasn't after me, but was a-heading for my brother Dave. I kept running along about even with the snake, taking pictures as I ran. Dave finally got tired and the snake caught up to him and let him have it. Lucky thing it only put a hole in his shirt. The shirt turned a bright green in about two hours.

So the next time anybody tells you they ain't no hoop snakes, you just tell them that they ain't no Santy Claus either, but it makes a darn good story.

**BEDFORD SPORTSMEN HOLD RECORD DINNER**

With more than 600 sportmen and their friends in attendance, the annual banquet of the Bedford County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs in the Loysburg Grange Hall at Loysburg proved a fitting climax to the observance of National Wildlife Week. From every section of Bedford county and from adjoining counties as well, the sportsmen and their friends converged on Loysburg, filling the Grange Hall to overflowing.

Conservation was the watchword of the evening. Ben Gipple, sports editor of the Middletown, Pa., Press, one of the Keystone State's leading figures in wildlife and forest conservation, and prominent in national sports circles as well, in the principal address of the evening, declared the foremost problem faced by sportsmen today is the relationship between the farmer and the hunter and fisherman.

In the early days of our nation, this problem did not exist, but he continued, with the coming of the automobile and the improved highways, the problem of the irresponsible city hunter has descended upon the farmer.

While most urban hunters are not destructive, Mr. Gipple pointed out that the vandalism to which certain hunters and fishers subject the farmer, has brought about a disturbing problem—that of controlling the nuisance trespasser.

Much has been done to alleviate this situation, he said, including the establishment of safety zones around houses.

In discussing conservation of America's natural resources, Mr. Gipple told of the early fortunes amassed through trapping, forests, water power and through the soil.

With the rapid settlement of the country, came the cutting of forests, intensive tilling of the soil, and the resultant barren lands, cause of many of present floods, droughts and dust storms, he declared.

The two greatest disasters which sportsmen have suffered in America's history have been the chestnut tree blight and the intensive cultivation of the soil, he told the audience. Pointing to the value of birds he explained that the value of an insectivorous bird is 22 cents to the acre. Wildlife development must be worked out as a natural adjunct to agricultural conservation, he stated, in pointing to the new spirit of restoration in the last two years out of realization that conservation is of interest to all.

Concluding his address, he said that activities on the part of the Farm Bureau, Grange, the P.F.A. and Boy and Girl Scouts are bringing about an understanding between sportsman and farmer in regard to their problems.

Mr. Gipple paid hearty tribute to the huge crowd attending the meeting, declaring it surpassed in numbers the assemblies attending the National Wildlife banquet in Baltimore a short time ago.

During the banquet served continuously from 5:15 p.m. to 9 o'clock, music was furnished by the Imlertown Ramblers, widely known throughout this section, and the Little German Band, of Schetibusburg, a new organization which is rapidly gaining wide popularity.

Guy Everhart, of Wood, served as master of ceremonies during the first half of the program, introducing sport leaders from adjoining counties, including William Davis, district supervisor, of Huntington; Charles Brennecke, game protector of Blair county, and Joe Critchfield of Somerset county.

Merrill C. Merritts, of Altoona, vice-president of the State Federation, declared that when bird life becomes extinct, man will also pass from the face of the earth. He stated that the federation in the state had a membership of 164,000, and he urged the sportsmen to become conservation minded.

Several selections were given by the Allegheny Quartet, of Bedford, composed of Howard Koontz, Walter Wolfe, Harry Zimmers and John Burkstresser.

A hilarious play, "The Rainbow's End," was presented by a group of Bedford county men. Written and directed by Dewey Miller, the cast included Goofy, Jack Moll; Rainbow, Eugene Hardman; Hunters, Glenn Kimberling, Lloyd Imler and Harry Layton; John S. Distar, played the part of the Game Protector.

In token of their work for conservation, Maurice Banker, of Huntington, presented a chestnut tree to Dewey Miller, president of the Federation, and Carl Walters, secretary. Hon. H. A. Foor, Bedford county's assemblyman, in a brief address brought a message of interest to sportmen and farmers.

Dewey Miller served as master of ceremonies during the last half of the program.
Enron's Note: The following address on a subject vitally interesting to Pennsylvania sportsmen was delivered at a recent meeting in Allentown of the Lehigh county Fish and Game Protective Association by District Forester E. F. Brouse.

I want to emphasize in the very beginning that foresters have regarded the sportsmen as friends of some years standing. If this tie-up is not recognized and clearly understood by the sportsmen I regretfully submit that likely it is due to the fact that we who are directing forestry in Pennsylvania apparently have been somewhat remiss in keeping you informed about the many developments affected in your behalf. It is my observation that few sportsmen are aware of the close relationship of forestry to the take of their rod and gun. This has been evident for some time but I am hopeful that you may be kept abreast of the times as advanced steps influencing your sport are taken in the future. Certainly our forestry policy will provide, aside from growing timber, as adequately as possible for wild life, aquatic life, recreation in general, and more important, the conservation of our water supply and of our soil upon which actually our being depends. Sound forestry practices could not avoid doing good turns for the sportsmen even if the individuals who place them in effect wanted to, and they, most certainly, do not. There are no particular conflicts between good forest management and the management of the forests to the advantage particularly of fishermen and of but little less to the gunners and other privileged to enjoy recreation in our woods.

I want to give you an easily understood definition and an explanation of forestry to provide some background so that the word picture that follows might be easily visualized. In the first place everyone ought to have a definite idea of what forestry actually embraces.

So few people know the true meaning of the words. True, most people vaguely suspect that it has something to do with trees and woods and they are right as far as they go. But there is much more. Conservation, generally limited in scope, so often begins upon the scene at this point and reputedly attempts to fly the forestry banner but it is a much misused word, and in this instance inadequate. In fact "conservation" often is warped to meet a particular whim supposedly representing what appears to be the need of the hour. Forestry and conservation are not synonymous. The practice of forestry is a science and art and essentially means the building up of the woods and all its parts for the greatest good to the greatest number over the longest period of time. This embraces farming, cultivating and caring for everything; soil, water, plant, wild life and from the soil to the terminal bud of the tallest tree. Conservation, narrower in concept, essentially means preserving what you have got. The foresters are not nor now have they been in the past, satisfied with such a course. We are giving constructive and long range help to the fisherman, the gunner, the recreationist, the nature lover, the soils men, the water conservationist and flood control engineers and to the individuals connected with all of these avowed avocations in their everyday pursuits. Not the least of the benefits is more timber, so essential to us all. We in forestry are not yet ready to conserve and I doubt that we ever will be for forestry means use, and as applied to timber, forestry means grow and harvest. In our processes of forest management all of the users are fairly well taken care of and as time goes on you folks are going to see a great change for the good in the several phases of forestry, as undoubt edly you have in forest fire control, and tree planting, the fairest advanced and best known in the public mind today.

Fortunately the Foresters' and Game Managers' interests coincide in most particulars of handling the woods. Notable among these are fire prevention and control. True sportsmen and sincere foresters see as one on these points. Without protection from fire there can be no forests or forestry. And without forestry, and principally the fire control branch of it, heaven help the gunner and his trap game, a point I will take up more fully a little later on.

Fishermen have good cause to be even more zealous of well wooded mountains and valleys for their sport is entirely dependent upon water and in turn to a considerable extent upon a tree cover over the ground and a blanket of leaves and humus immediately on the ground. It is common knowledge, but I want to repeat that fire destroys both, and actually will ruin good fishing streams and the resultant ashes and lye from fires will destroy the aquatic life (both fish and fish food) itself. The fact is established that well cared-for forest cover will permit less water in streams during periods of high precipitation and yet reduce the scouring of food out of the stream beds by floods and too, it will definitely maintain a stronger flow in the stream during periods of drought and precipitation.

My belief is that fishermen take forest protection and particularly forest fires too philosophically. Their sport, whether their favorite stream is in mountain or valley, directly depends upon the absence of forest fires and the minimum of forest abuse. If they fully realized the dependence of their sport upon good forest cover they would demand that much further emphasis be placed upon the prevention and control of woods fires and further attempt to insure that the necessary help and support is forthcoming to affect an advanced and forceful program. Even though we are doing pretty well along this line at present, a point higher efficiency is attainable with a stronger public sentiment against woods burning. Since the fishermen are so vitally concerned some concerted and far reaching help might reasonably be expected of them.

I hardly need to tell you that formerly Pennsylvania was a great timber state for the name itself suggests that. It was so great in fact that it led all of the states in timber cut from 1860 to 1890. Then the decline began and today we stand in approximately the twentieth position. The cutting was so complete over the past 250 years that only about 25,000 acres of original forests remains. Through all these years, and particularly during the last half of the last century when timbering was at its height, there were thousands upon thousands of acres of slashing, and fires burned thousands of these acres; there was a great difference in the species and quality but burned or unburned sprouts followed in this succession of cutting, slashing, fire. If one were to believe some rather widely scattered current views about wild life food and cover, those conditions were optimum for deer above all else. But was the deer herd at its peak and was Pennsylvania first as a game state in the Union? Rather far from it we are told, and far below the present figure of 40,000 bucks a year and 100,000 to 125,000 does periodically; kills the rank and file of sportsmen surely regard as satisfactory. As a matter
example, there had not been a deer killed in Pennsylvania practically every year than was taken by the gunners. In a bad fire year this situation may occur today. In this respect we are not so far away from yesteryear. But as the scope of fire protection broadened the food and cover increased to sustain the game and just as naturally the game itself increased. Surely this sequence is logical and is easily understood. The forest fire wardens cannot claim all of the honors nor are they attempting to for elevating Pennsylvania into the high position she enjoys today as a game state, but they deserve a great deal more credit than they received in recent years. In my estimation the wardens, their organized crews and their men are the sportsmen's unsung heroes.

While the curve of fire protection is at present showing an increasing efficiency yet a reawakening is needed. Man caused fires ought to be largely eliminated and if this could be done our losses would be negligible. On the whole this is going to be a slow and painstaking process. In spite of the fact that the situation is greatly improved it will interest you to know that over a period of the last ten years we reached a low of 35,000 acres a year of forest land burned-over and a high of 315,000 acres. With even infrequent occurrences such as the latter the need is apparent more than ever for an intensification of forest protection activities and more than ever we need the actual help of the sportsmen's clubs. The above figures do not account for the grass and field fires occurring annually especially in the Southeastern part of the State. Thousands of acres are prevented from returning natural to trees thereby providing game food and cover and these same fires also prevent the inevitable conversion of marginal and idle areas into revenue producing crop land. And all this wastefulness is beyond the game that is actually destroyed, which is not insignificant, in itself. Certainly you people would not think of buying and stocking in the Spring a crate of rabbits and then the next day or next week is actually destroyed, which is not insignificant, of fact during the late years of the cutting era and for years afterward there were a great many counties in the State in which there seemed to be no vestige of big game. As for example, there had not been a deer killed in Pennsylvania practically every year than was taken by the gunners. In a bad fire year this situation may occur today. In this respect we are not so far away from yesteryear. But as the scope of fire protection broadened the food and cover increased to sustain the game and just as naturally the game itself increased. Surely this sequence is logical and is easily understood. The forest fire wardens cannot claim all of the honors nor are they attempting to for elevating Pennsylvania into the high position she enjoys today as a game state, but they deserve a great deal more credit than they received in recent years. In my estimation the wardens, their organized crews and their men are the sportsmen's unsung heroes.

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The statement has been repeated often that the forests are Pennsylvania's playgrounds. How true it is may be shown by citing the fact that 600,000 licensed gunners and 400,000 unlicensed property hunters are in forest and field in the fall of each year. The proponents of fishing point out that in addition to 400,000 licensed fishermen a million youngsters fish free Spring, Summer, Fall and to a limited extent during the Winter. Even if only half the gunners and half of the fishermen use the forest environment to pursue their sport still the figures stand out significantly. The foresters go still further and I want to tell you that 85 million people a year use the State Forests and Parks practically a year around basis and how many people go to the privately owned parks, preserves and mountain places both winter and summer I do not know. Perhaps the number is as much as double this figure. While there is some duplication between gunners and fishermen and of both in the State Forest totals, yet the non-sportsmen recreationalists easily number 4 million or better on the State owned lands alone. This group is made up of the wives, daughters, sons and neighbors of sportmen who go to the State Forests and State Parks for health, rest, camping, boating, picnicking, swimming and all sorts of recreation. Here is an outdoor host of considerable size and I feel fairly confident that most of the groups either consciously or subconsciously establish a pre-requisite in their chosen places of green woods; necessarily growing woods of appreciable worth. And who

*content*
among us would attempt to evaluate the beauty of our tree clad land and the joy and the inspiration we derive alone from green hills and valleys. Surely the value is high. Is it almost superfluous to point out to you that most of these forest uses and values are decimated or completely destroyed by the charred skeletons of trees, their inevitable associates and followers? Rather I will reiterate that well cared for forests supply more than timber and more than watershed protection and more than game food and cover and are more than soil building agents—the host to thousands of gunners, fishermen, campers, and nature lovers a combination of all these and more. The Sportsman is helped immensely and so are countless others in everybody's land . . . the domain of many uses . . . the Pennsylvania forests.

Some of the best hunting grounds and fishing waters are found within the State Forests. The State Forests represent only about one eighth of the total forested area in Pennsylvania yet nearly one-half of the number of deer and more than one-third of the number of bear, in addition to large quantities of small game, killed by hunters each year are shot within their boundaries. They contain 20 State game refuges and 13 auxiliary game refuges, the combined area of which is approximately 50,000 acres. I can tell you further that the first game preserves in Pennsylvania, and for many years the only ones, were located in the State Forests.

It is not by accident that the State Forests obviously are the best hunting and fishing grounds in Pennsylvania. The up-building has been going on for years and it is outstanding to my way of thinking. I am sure the fisherman will be pleased to know that more than 100,000 acres of the State Forests have been axe treated the past few years which removed a large number of small game to the up-building. Planned improvement cutting and timbering will be continued as rapidly as possible on the balance of the million six hundred thousand acres. Harvesting will be done on a selection basis which means working over a given tract at fairly regular intervals thus breaking into the older trees (the over- stock) permitting trees of several age classes and of different sizes to grow on the same area. As the improvement cuttings are carried further and as fire losses are lowered, the wild life supporting ability of the forests and the fish carrying capacity of the streams are bound to increase accordingly. I want to say also that aside from the State Forests there are about six hundred thousand acres of State game lands largely forested and upon which game improvement methods are being studied and carried out as fast as practicable. The Federal Government also owns almost a half million acres of forest land in Northwestern Pennsylvania known as the Allegheny National Forest.

The intensive forestry program underway is directed by a well-trained staff. Emphasis has been placed on wild life up-building and some really good work is being done. A semblance of forestry is practiced by hundreds of private individuals all over the State and perhaps a million or more acres of wild forest the treatment of which is superficial or fairly intensive the Sportsmen are helped in some measure by this effort toward woods culture. Of course fire protection is State wide and covers both private and public lands.

So by further reducing the devastation of fire, by planting the barren lands with cover and food providing trees and shrubs, by extending the axe treatment of woodland, with the assistance of nature and with a little patience for forestry essentially is planning for the future, the game situation promises to show as much improvement in the next decade as it did in the one just passed and who will deny that there was great progress. The fisherman and out-of-doors people, in general, will be rewarded equally as well and indeed it is highly probable that the up-building in their behalf by nature and the axe equipped practitioner both are working toward a reduction in the number of trees per acre and essentially favoring growth of quality. In short as time goes on light will filter through the taller trees and encourage undergrowth. This very action is taking place over a large part of the State at the present time.

A big buck Indian had just ordered a ham sandwich at a drug counter and was peering between the slices of bread when he turned and said to the waiter- "Ugh, you slice 'em ham?"

The waiter replied, "Yes, I sliced the ham."

"Ugh," grunted the Indian. "You darn neat miss 'em."
CCC TO IMPROVE TROUT STREAMS

District Forester Charles Hogeland has informed Fish Warden George Cross of the following program for stream improvement by CCC forces:

Camp S-78, Westport, 225 man hours on Two Mile Run; Camp S-75, Hyner, 450 man hours with $25 for materials on Hyner Run and Youngwomans Creek; Camp S-120, Farrrandsville, 500 man hours with $24.75 on Lick Run and Ferney Run.

The set-up as arranged through the efforts of Mr. Hogeland will aid in the conservation of fish and an improvement in fishing conditions in the several popular streams. Small dams are made which protect the fish in dry weather.

CLEARFIELD ANGLERS SCHOOL FLY CASTERS

There were more than 40 fly casters enrolled in the first session of the fly casting school being conducted by the Y. M. C. A. The school's first session was held in April in the Ymca gym. There were three more sessions scheduled to be held on Wednesday evenings during April.

These fly casting schools are open to any person and there is no charge for enrollment. It is the hope of the Y. M. C. A. that more people will avail themselves of this opportunity to either learn to cast flies or practice at their favorite sport.

There are no paid instructors conducting the classes. Instruction is based on the fact that no matter how good a fly caster you are there is always some person that is a little better than you are at casting flies and is willing to help you to improve your casting.

FINED FOR NETTING FISH

Howard Johnson and Amos Larue, both of Peach Bottom, charged with netting fish, were fined $25 and costs each when they pleaded guilty before Justice of the Peace Samuel Gall, Quarryville.

Charges of assault and battery against the pair brought by George Wiley, of near Peach Bottom, in behalf of his son, Elmer, were withdrawn.

FISHING CONTEST PRIZES AWARDED

Prizes in the fishing contest sponsored during 1938 by the Lappawinzo Fish and Game Protective Association were awarded to the club announced that the contest for 1939 would open with the beginning of the trout season on April 15.

Awards, presented at the meeting of the club held at its quarters near Kreidersville went to Paul Leganza, for a small mouth bass weighing 4 pounds, 15 ounces; to Charles Coleman, for a large mouth bass weighing 4 pounds, 4 ounces, and for a small mouth bass weighing 2 pounds, 10 ounces; to George Miller, for a small mouth bass weighing 2 pounds, 9 ounces; to Ed Loch, for a cahigo bass weighing three-quarters of a pound; and to Ralph F. Smith, for a catfish weighing 1 pound, 13 ounces. The vermin control prize was awarded to Asher Snyder of Berlinsville.

They were arguing as to whether it was correct to say a hen "she is sitting," or "she is setting."

"The question," said the farmer, "don't interest me at all. What I wants to know when I hear a hen cackle is whether she is laying or crying."

RECREATION CENTER PLANNED FOR COAL RUN

At the annual meeting of the Decatur Township Sportsmen's Club, composed of 175 sportsmen from the Osceola Mills and Osceola Mills R. D. regions, held at the Scotch Hollow school house in March, it was decided to make the Coal Run stream near Osceola into a recreation center.

According to plans of the sportsmen the stream will be dammed and made into a swimming pool at one section and the rest of the stream will be stocked for fishing.

With the exception of three drill holes which are spouting sulphur water into Coal Run the stream is pure. The pollution of sulphur water is coming from an abandoned mine and sportsmen will take steps to have the drill holes sealed.

When the pollution is stopped and the stream is stocked with fish there will be four miles of excellent fishing stream.

Arthur Williams, of Osceola Mills, was elected president of the organization for the coming year. He succeeds Norman Stevens who held the position of president during the first year of the club's existence.

Mr. Stevens, past president, was elected to the office of fish and game.
PAYS TRIBUTE TO LATE J. M. BEYER

From Joe H. Barkley, of Punxsutawney, vice chairman and secretary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, North Central Division, comes the following tribute to the late J. M. Beyer, Punxsutawney druggist and a veteran trout fisherman.

"J. M.,” as he was known to young and old alike, was well known in the wilds of Potter county and knew every inch of the best trout streams there as well as the streams within all the counties in this section of the state. He died on December 30, 1938, in his 87th year. Until the last year of his life he trout fished, and many of us thought that he lived from one year to the next just to go trout fishing. He was a charter member of the Elks Lodge here and the second Exalted Ruler of the Lodge. Had S. Smith, yes, 'Had from Wilkes-Barre,' was the first. Had left here over 43 years ago.

"J. M. was a druggist in Punxsutawney for over 50 years and his son is carrying on. You could always talk fishing in there and many a nice catch of fish was taken in the store."

The following splendid poem concerning J. M. was dedicated to his memory by Frank Jackson, former superintendent of schools in Punxsutawney.

STREAM'S END

Where the brook ran cool
And the shadows lurked
At the curve of a birch root;
He cast his fly,
As a fisherman will,
In the piscator's pursuit.

In the heyday of youth
The stream ran free,
The current was strong and deep;
In manhood full
It was at its flood,
With the strength of a life at peak.

But the current loitered.
The eddies came,
The water grew wide and still;
And the stream of life
Had become a load,
As the stream of life ever still.

Though the final cast
Was full and strong,
The trout did not rise that day;
And the fisherman's creel
Laid his rod aside,
And fell asleep by the stream.

— Frank Staples Jackson.

In memory of J. M. Beyer in whose company the author spent a never to be forgotten week in the favorite haunts of "J. M." amid the wilds of Kettle Creek, Pennsylvania.

FARMERS-SPORTSMEN CLUB ORGANIZED

A Farmers’ and Sportsmen’s Protective Association, similar to one now active in the Ligonier Valley, has been organized at Welty-town, near Kecksburg, with a membership comprising most of the landowners in that section. Permission to hunt on the ground of association members will be by card, just as is done by the Valley Association.

By the time the next hunting season arrives, it is expected that the association will have 300 or more landowners as members. George Heindman is president, Mr. Schmidt, secretary and Will Frye, treasurer.

Several primary refuges will be set up within the territory and fenced off. The sportsmen are also planning a hatching and breeding program. A quantity of ringneck eggs will be purchased for hatching purposes.

The new club holds its meetings in the Welty-town school house.

TROUT ELECTROCUTED; REPLACED BY COMPANY

Two hundred brook trout which were electrocuted during a storm when high-voltage electric wires fell into the Breinig creek, near Exeter-town, were replaced by 200 brook trout ranging from 8 ½ to 9 inches.

The creek was stocked by the Rural Sportsmen's Association of Upper Macungie township with 200 trout. President W. S. Hall said. The trout, he declared, were purchased and given to the association by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co.

Mr. Hall said that the fish “seemingly exploded when the electric charge was passed into the creek.” The wires fell into the creek near the properties of George K. Mosser and Irwin Poe, Exeter-town.

Breinig creek is a tributary to Spring creek, Lehigh county.

Time out for trout stockers. Howard George and Bill Meckling warm up while releasing legal size brown trout in the Manada Creek, Dauphin county.
UNION SPORTSMEN AT BIG DINNER

One hundred and thirty-five sportsmen attended the annual banquet, held in the Masonic building, Mifflinburg, on April 4. Officials of the State Game and Fish Departments were present with visitors from other sportmen’s clubs. An excellent chicken supper was served by the ladies of the Mifflinburg Evangelical Church.

After the supper, C. Asher Kniss, president of the Sportsmen’s Association, acting as toastmaster, introduced Mr. George Hasenplug, treasurer of the Lycoming County Consolidated Sportsmen’s Clubs, Judge Lesher, of Lewisburg, Fish Warden Arthur Snyder, and the following members of the protection division of the Game Department: Fred Fisher, Mifflinburg, Charles Shannon, Mifflinburg, Geo. Dieffenderfer, Shamokin, Mr. Miller, Lewisburg and Mr. Ehrigutt, of Allenwood.

The first speaker of the evening was Dalton Bell, former president of the Lycoming County Consolidated Sportsmen’s Clubs, who stressed the need of cooperation between sportsmen and with the officials of sportsmen association as a requisite in building a successful organization.

Samuel Castner, of Williamsport, a member of the Game Commission, was the next speaker and in a friendly talk told the sportsmen of the research work being done at the Loyalslock Game Farm to determine the kind of cover, food, etc., necessary to make a home in which game can live and propagate. He described a machine, the only one of its kind in the world, in which all kinds of weather conditions can be artificially reproduced for experimental work on all kinds of game.

Following Mr. Castner’s talk the toastmaster introduced Mr. John B. Ross, Division Game Supervisor, of Williamsport, who has charge of Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union, Sullivan and Tioga Counties. Mr. Ross, who has been with the Game Commission since it was formed twenty years ago spoke of the difficulties of the protector at that time compared with the splendid cooperation of the sportmen today. He also told some interesting bear and wild cat stories.

The last speaker of the evening was C. R. Buller, of Bellefonte, Chief Fish Culturist in charge of all fish propagation in the State of Pennsylvania, and a man who has no peer in his profession. Mr. Buller spoke of the service the Fish Commission is trying to render the fisherman, in stream survey work to determine the best waters for stocking the various kinds of trout and other game and food fish. He explained the reason for the policy of increased spring stocking of trout which is due to the lack of food in our streams to maintain a large fish population over the summer and winter months.

The remainder of the evening’s program was devoted to motion pictures from the Game Department, shown by Henry Schell, of the Department of Education of the Commission. Several reels of fishing and Moose hunting in Canada, a portion of which was in beautiful Kodachrome shown by Mr. Harold Musser, of Mifflinburg, and several reels of interesting pictures of Moose hunting in Canada shown by Mr. Maynard Reitz, of Winfield.
The final stage of their journey to the stream for these local brown.

Body, dubbing made from hares ear, mixed with yellow worsted and tipped with yellow; hackle, ginger; tail, brown mottled partridge fibres; wings, hen pheasant.

No. 15 Fish Fly

The prototype of this fly is Chauliodus Serricornis. During the latter part of May it may be seen in the bright sunshine, flying shaggy along the willows bordering the stream.

Body, a dubbing of black and brown wool, ribbed with yellow; hackle, grey; wings, grey mottled turkey.

No. 16 Cahill

Other than being named after a Dublin fly tyer, little is known concerning the origin of this fly.

Body, dubbing of blue rabbit fur; hackle, brown; tail, mandarin fibres; wings, mandarin.

No. 17 Grizzly King

This fly was a favorite of Seth Green, noted New York fish culturist. With the exception of the green body and grey hackle, it is similar to the Professor.

Body, green floss silk, ribbed with gold tinsel; hackle, grey or grizzly; tail, scarlet fibres; wings, mottled mallard.

No. 18 Red Bubble

This fly was named after Reuben Wood, a great fisherman.

Body, white chenille, with scarlet floss silk tip; hackle, dark ginger; tail, brown mallard fibres; wings, mottled mallard.

No. 19 Little Black Caddis

In the early part of the season, small black flies predominate over the water. These are usually the stone flies Tanopteryx fasciata, Capnia tessalis, and the small caddis fly Chironomus aquaticus.

Body, black wool dubbing; hackle, red brown; wings, coot or blackbird.

No. 20 Morrison

According to an old volume, long out of print, this fly was named after Colonel L. Morrison of Lock Haven in the year 1862. It would be of interest to know more about the Colonel, for the fly he originated is a most successful wet pattern.

Body, chest floss silk, ribbed with black thread; hackle, black; tail, crow feather fibres; wings, crow or blackbird.

No. 21 Governor

This fly originated in England and was supposed to represent a beetle found on their waters.

Body, peacock herl, tipped with scarlet floss silk; sometimes with orange; hackle, red brown; wings, woodcock.

No. 22 Black Quill

This fly is an imitation of the mayfly, Blatturna capidius. Depending on the weather, this insect may be noticed over the slower moving streams from the latter part of April up until the middle of June. On the Penns Creek it is very common and is generally known as the Black Quill. It exists for two days in this stage, then it sheds the sub-imago skin and emerges forth as the Early Brown Spinner.

Body, dark peacock quill; hackle, dark, red brown; tail, brown mottled mallard; wings, lead color, (heron, pigeon or duck.)

No. 23 Early Brown Spinner

This fly is the spinner or imago of the Black Quill. After the sub-imago skin is shed, the wings lose their lead, slate grey color, and the outer tails increase in length, the middle one remaining very short.

Body, brown crow wool; hackle, red brown; tail, mandarin duck fibres; wings, light stearing.

No. 24 Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear

The name of this fly is derived from the fact that the dubbing body is secured from the base of an English hare's ear.

Body, dubbing of hare's ear, tipped with gold tinsel; hackle, none; tail, brown mallard fibres; wings, stearing.

No. 25 King of the Water

Little is known concerning the origin of this fly but it is one of the older American patterns.

Body, scarlet floss silk, ribbed with gold tinsel; hackle, red brown; wings, mottled mallard.

No. 26 Queen of the Water

This fly is another invention of the old time angler and Professor, Christopher North.

Body, orange floss silk, ribbed with gold wire and Palmer tied with red brown hackle; hackle, red brown; wings, mottled mallard.

No. 27 Red Hackle

This is the oldest known pattern of trout fly and dates back to A.D. 230.

Body, red wool floss silk, ribbed with gold wire and Palmer tied with red brown hackle; hackle, red brown; wings, mottled mallard.

No. 28 Red Aot

This fly is an imitation of the winged ants, which occasionally come on the water in good numbers.

Body, red floss silk with peacock herl tip; hackle, red brown; wings, stearing.
A Minersville man who has been a fly fisherman for more than a half century is Charles F. Kear, 70 years old, who in spite of his advanced years, is as eager at awaiting the opening day of trout season as he did when a young fellow years ago, wrote Jack Richards, of Pottsville, prior to the opening of trout season.

His sight isn’t what it used to be, his legs are a trifle shaky, but his fishing rod is all varnished and ready for use, his flies and tackle are in order and bright and early on the opening day he will be found on some stream where he may fish in safety and enjoy the sport which he considers the closest to heaven one can get on this earthly sphere.

His fishing is not catching trout to take home or destroy—it is to return them gently to the water from whence they came so that they may be there the next time he goes out and give him the same battle over again.

There are many fishermen in this county, but the one we like best to address as a sportsman is Mr. Kear, for he is a true sportsman if ever one lived.

For nearly all of his 70 years he has been a fisherman, starting out when only a young lad of tender years with worms, later switching to minnows and then about a half century ago becoming a fly fisherman and sticking to flies ever since.

Mr. Kear says he received his first lessons in fly fishing on the old Indian Run dam from Jiles Blunt, an old English coachman who was recognized as the peer of all fly fishermen of his time in this county. Blunt learned his skill in England and he was the idol and the model of all the younger generation who marveled at his skill with which he tossed a fly and hooked a trout.

Another fisherman from whom Mr. Kear learned a great deal was George Bowe, a pal of Blunt and these three would spend hours at the Indian Run where brook trout abounded in those days.

The first fly Mr. Kear ever used was a brown hackle, and it was with this fly he acquired much of the skill which he retains to this day.

Some time after he started fly fishing, Mr. Kear became interested in tying his own flies and here, too, he was taught by another old timer from Minersville, Clem Phillips. The latter had his own patterns which he developed from the flies he saw on the Indian Run dam and when Phillips made a fly usually it was one that would take trout. Mr. Kear, for years, tied all his own flies, thanks to the instructions of Phillips, but due to failing eyesight was forced to give this up a couple of years ago.

Mr. Kear in his time has fished in nearly all of the important streams in eastern Pennsylvania, particularly in the Pocono mountains. He has taken trout from the Lehigh, Marshals Creek, Wild Creek, Dotters Creek and others too numerous to mention. One of his favorite fishing spots was an old cabin he had near Stony Creek, leased a pond in the western part of the county which they stock each year with trout. Only barless hooks are used and most of the trout taken from this pool are returned again.

His son, Collier H. Kear, to whom he always in his son’s feat as if he had caught the trout himself.

He urges fishermen to be sportsmen while on the stream—to give the trout a chance for its life. Like the fish commission, he advocates if you would have more sport, and catch more fish, you must kill less.

Mr. Kear’s favorite stream for years has been Stony Creek, along the S. & S. Railroad, about 20 miles west of Pinegrove. Here, with a number of Minersville men, he had a cabin for years, but seven years ago it burned to the ground. It was in Stony Creek that Mr. Kear caught the largest brook trout he ever taken on a fly—a 14-incher.

He was fishing one afternoon in a particularly wild spot, hard to reach, says Mr. Kear, as he recalls the experience. He had let his fly float down the stream and as he was about to retrieve it he thought it was caught on a log there. A twitch of the rod and he felt the vibration of the trout’s body as the hook was set. Then he had a fight on his hands such as he has never experienced before or since, he says, until he finally landed the beauty.

One of his favorite dry flies for years has been a gray hackle and he finds he still can take plenty of trout on it.

Since their cabin burned down some years ago Mr. Kear hasn’t had the opportunity to fish Stony Creek. A few years ago, however, he and George Oerther, Prof. Raudebush, Ed. Rothermel, Dr. John W. Clay, Dr. G. A. Merkle and Carl W. Kear, of Minersville, leased a pond in the western part of the county which they stock each year with trout. Only barless hooks are used and most of the trout taken from this pool are returned again. Here is where Mr. Kear now does most of his fishing, since he finds streams somewhat dangerous at his age.

Last season on the opening day he hooked almost 30 trout from his pool but brought home only a few of them alive.

He considers Al Bond of Pinegrove one of the best sportsmen he has ever fished with and has seen Al time after time release and return to the stream at High Bridge trout that went up to 14 and 16 inches.

His son, Collier H. Kear, to whom he always says, three years ago took the largest brook trout in Pennsylvania from Black Creek, near Tremont. Mr. Kear finds as much pleasure in his son’s feat as if he had caught the trout himself.

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FISH AWARDS GIVEN AT PIONEER MEETING

Speeches, movies, tall stories and refreshments provided the varied program at the annual spring meeting of the Pioneer Fish and Game Protective Association of Pennsylvania. When 367 new members were admitted to the organization.

More than 700 members attended the meeting at which numerous fish awards were presented by William Talbot: John Boxtmann and E. Fred Browne. Thrilling sound motion pictures, and tall stories were told by the more nimble-tongued members. Prize for this contest was won by Robert J. Wheeler.

Speakers included District Fish Warden C. Joel Young, Lehigh County Game Protector William A. Moyer, Attorney Samuel D. Frederick, District Forester E. Fred Browne, Commissioner of Fisheries Charles A. French, Ira F. Thomas, and the duke just cabled me to come across.

Mr. French mentioned Sportsmanship as practiced by the Unami Sportsmen's Club was a feature of the meeting. He emphasized the value of the Club in educating the public concerning fish and game laws, and in training a generation of sportsmen who will perpetuate the traditions of the older generation.

Prize winners: Brook trout: first, Pete Kuhns, 131 N. 14 St., 1.5 lbs. 4 oz.; second, Frank Kleinsorge, 513 N. Law St., and the duke just cabled me to come across. Bronze trout, first, Paul Markes, 973 Cedar St., 21 inches, 3 lbs. 8 oz.; second, Ray Clephane, 210 N. 10th St., 20 inches, 2 lbs., 11 oz.; Brown trout, first, Charles D. Heimly, 115 Green St., 19.5 inches, 3 lbs., 2 oz.; second, Howard Gangwer, 730 Fountain St., 19 inches, 2 lbs., 2 oz.

Small mouth black bass, first, Joseph Kertz, 218 North St., 1.25 lbs., 5 oz.; second, Ernest Stakel, 633 Union St., 2054 inches, 4 lbs., 2 oz.; Large mouth black bass, first, Willard Moser, 1501 S. Albert St., 22 inches, 5 lbs., 3 oz.; second, Samuel Berkemeier, 822 Court St., 1954 inches, 4 lbs., 8 oz.

Pickarel, first, Earl H. Burger, 628 Green St., 25.5 inches, 4 lbs., 6 oz.; second, Howard Stump, 459 N. 8th St., 2854 inches, 3 lbs., 4 oz.; Walleyed pike, first, Walter Witzak, 1342 Liberty St., 2254 inches, 3 lbs., 12 oz.; second, Frank Kleinsorge, 513 N. Law St., 32 inches, 3 lbs., 4 oz.; Trout "fly" contest (caught by wet or dry fly only) first, C. Robert Glover, 217 N. 17th St., 1654 inches, 1 lb., 9 oz.; Junior member contest, Pickarel, first, Eugene Baer, 212 Liberty St., 19 inches, 2 lbs., 13 oz.

Honorable mention went to the following: Owen Hoffman, East Greenville for a small mouth black bass, 18 in., 3 lbs., 2 oz.; Rudy Hassler, 938 St. Elias St., for a large mouth black bass, 19 in., 4 lbs., 2 oz.; Howard Robert, 1142 N. 16th St., for a large mouth black bass, 19 in., 4 lbs.

There were two entries submitted for the lad


"Do Englishmen use American slang?"
"Some of them do. Why?"
"My daughter is being married in London, and the duke just cabled me to come across."
LYCOMING ANGLERS PLEASED WITH TROUT

All of the men who have been helping to stock Lycoming County streams this spring have been impressed by the fine condition of the trout which have been sent here by the hatchery at Bellefonte, writes Dick Fortney, outdoor editor for the Williamsport Grit.

All are fat and beautifully colored. It is not unusual for some of the larger ones actually to leap out of the buckets in which they are carried from the hatchery trucks to the streams.

Once in the water the fish disappear with amazing speed. Some ducks under convenient cover, and others dart swiftly upstream out of sight.

We personally have helped with the stocking of nearly 6,000 trout and in all that number have seen only one which was apparently sick or injured. That one was a little fellow.

The $1.00 which a fisherman in Lycoming County, or any other nearby county, pays for his license comes back to him many-fold.

It costs the State of Pennsylvania about 48 cents a pound to rear trout in the hatchery at Bellefonte, says Dick Fortney, and in 1938 the state stocked in the streams some 174 tons of trout of all species, of which Central Pennsylvania received its share.

Incidentally, fish culturists at the Bellefonte hatchery have calculated that it takes four and one-half pounds of food—chiefly liver and ground fish—to produce one pound of live trout.

An interesting story comes from the Bellefonte hatchery apropos to fish rearing.

One day last winter hatchery attendants discovered a large breeder brook trout had leaped into a pond with small trout. The bandit was netted—and in its stomach attendants found 16 baby trout.

The brown trout always has had the reputation of being a cannibal, but this incident seems to put the brookie on the blacklist too.

But that is as it should be. Fish prey upon each other by the laws of nature, for there is not enough food in any stream to sustain the lives of all the fish that would inhabit it if all fish eggs hatched and all fish reached maturity.

JEFFERSON CLUB HAS FISH DINNER

The Henderson Township Outdoor Association of Stony Creek, Jefferson county, held their annual fish dinner in the Community Hall on March 25. This dinner was given in observance of Wildlife Restoration Week. Present were 80 guests, sportsmen and Boy Scouts. The dinner was prepared by the sportsmen, and Vice-President John Petrick was chairman of the dinner committee. Boy Scouts of Kramer Troop 76 served the tables.

Splendid addresses were made by Joseph Barkley, prominent north central official of the State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Morris Sherman, Game Supervisor of the division, Archie Haines, president of the North Central Division of Sportsmen's Clubs and Robert Henderson, president of the Jefferson County Sportsmen's Association, writes Amos O. Knarr.

"Your husband looks like a brilliant man. I suppose he knows practically everything."

"Don't fool yourself; he doesn't even suspect anything."

RECORD SUCKERS

Sweet Arrow Lake in Schuylkill county has produced some outstanding catches of suckers this year, but none have equaled the one taken by veteran 70-year-old Ike Springer of Beckville according to Warden Anthony Loch of Cressona.

Springer landed nine suckers during a day's fishing that ranged in length from 17 to 22 inches.
**FINAL REPORT ON FISHING CONTEST**

The final report of Fishing Contest held by the Harrisburg Hardware Co., Inc., during the season of 1938, for the largest brook, rainbow and brown trout, small mouth bass, large mouth bass, and salmon or wall-eyed pike is, as follows:

**Brook Trout**

W. S. Miller, Paxtang, Pa., 14½” long, 1 lb. 1 oz., caught near Huntsdale, with minnow, April 16, 1938.

Anthony Lupia, 125 Sylvan Terrace, Harrisburg, Pa., 15¼” long, 1 lb. 6 oz., caught at Huntsdale, with worm, July 3, 1938.

Ken Thorsus, Harrisburg, Pa., 14” long, 1 lb. 2 oz., caught at Granville, with Mosquito Fly.

Winner—Anthony Lupia, Silver Loving Cup.

**Brown Trout**

F. J. Carson, 208 Kelso Street, Paxtang, Pa., 18” long, 2 lb. 4 oz., caught with minnow, at Falling Springs, April 15, 1938.

W. S. Miller, Paxtang, Pa., 17” long, 2 lb. 4 oz., caught with minnow, Falling Springs, April 16, 1938.

M. Shenker, Newville, R. D. 1, 25½” long, 5 lb. 9 oz., caught at Huntsdale, 3rd club, June 15, 1938.

Winner—M. Shenker, Silver Loving Cup.

**Rainbow Trout**

M. H. Foster, 207 S. Enola Drive, Enola, Pa., 15” long, 1 lb. 7 oz., caught at Big Spring, with minnow, April 16, 1938.

W. S. Miller, Jr., Paxtang, Pa., 16½” long, 1 lb. 12 oz., caught at Falling Springs, with minnow, April 16, 1938.

Erwin Miller, 447 Crescent Street, Harrisburg, Pa., 15½” long, 1 lb. 1 oz., Yellow Breeches Creek, with Fly Plug, May 12, 1938.

Earnest W. Galser, 1983 N. Seventh Street, Harrisburg, Pa., 21½” long, 3 lb. 12 oz., caught at Huntsdale with worm, June 9, 1938.

Winner—Earnest W. Galser, Silver Loving Cup.

**Bass, Large and Small Mouth**

Frank Ulrich, 209 E. Emans Street, Middletown, Pa., Small Mouth, 22” long, 4 lb. 9 oz., Susquehanna River with Plug, July 7, 1938.

J. E. Lower, Market Square, Harrisburg, Pa., Small Mouth 18” long, 3 lb, Juniata River, with Plug, July 6, 1938.

M. L. Wallace, 48 Enola Drive, Enola, Pa., Small Mouth 18½” long, 3 lb. 8 oz., with Helgranite, Conodoguinet Creek, September 12, 1938.

H. B. Kirk, 1002 North Street, Harrisburg, Pa., Small Mouth 21½” long, 5 lb. 4 oz., with Kingfisher Plug Perch, Marsh Run, Susquehanna River, October 1, 1938.

George Taylor, 220 Reno Street, New Cumberland, Pa., Small Mouth, 20” long 4 lb, 7 oz., with Kingfisher Plug, yellow, Susquehanna River, at New Cumberland, October 10, 1938.

H. A. Cain, 2445 Reed Street, Harrisburg Pa., Large Mouth, 30” long, 5 lb, 21” long, 6 lb. 8 oz., with Chub, Susquehanna River at Goldsboro, Pa., October 9 and 10, 1938.

Louis Oslander, 333 Poplar Street, Steelton, Pa., Salmon, 26½” long, 3 lb. 9 oz., with Stone Cat Fish, July 13, 1938.

Chester Dammer, New Market, Pa., Salmon, 26½” long, 6 lb. 12 oz., with Heddon Plug, 9119P, Susquehanna River at Hawk Rock, July 18, 1938.

LeRoy Seiders, New Bloomfield, Pa., Salmon, 29” long, 7 lbs. 4 oz., with minnow, Juniata below Newport, October 10, 1938.

Earl Ashenfelter, 220 Market Street, New Cumberland, Pa., Salmon, 28” long, 5 lb. 12 oz., with Heddon River Runt, Red & White, Conowago, York County, October 14, 1938.

Paul Ross, 402 State Street, West Fairview, Pa., Salmon, 27” long, 5 lb. 12 oz., caught with stone cat fish, Oct. 18, 1938.

Elmer Lower, New Cumberland, Pa., Salmon, 27½” long, 7 lb. 12 oz., Caught with River Runt, Red & White, at Yorkhaven Dam, Susquehanna River, October 27, 1938.

Winners—Bass.

H. A. Cain, Supreme Reel, 6 lbs. 8 oz.

H. B. Kirk, 100-yd. Black Silk Line, 5 lbs. 4 oz.

Winners—Salmon.

Elmer Lower, Tubular Steel Casting Rod, 7 lb. 12 oz.

LeRoy Seiders, I set Bait, 7 lb. 4 oz.

**MONTGOMERY CLUBS DISCUSS PARK PLANS**

Representatives of seven sportsman’s clubs from Norristown, the Perkiomen Valley and the Main Line attended a conference with Montgomery County Commissioners at the Court House on March 27.

Arrangements were discussed for the re-stocking of streams running through the county’s recently acquired 400 acres in Norristown park tract near Green Lane. Members of the various sportsmen’s organizations visited the tract April 16.

Plans for the new county park were outlined at the conference by the three commissioners, Frederick C. Peters, Foster C. Hilligass and James W. Potter.

Dams are to be rebuilt, additional trees are to be planted, and a bathing beach is to be arranged along a portion of the lake which will be formed by new water barriers.

Camping privileges will be extended on permit and a trailer camp will be established. Camping parties and trailer visitors will be accorded the privileges of the park, as provided, without a fee.

Members of the various committees and the organizations which they represented at the conference were:

Charles C. Hughes, Norristown, representing the Montgomery County Fish, Game and Forestry Association; Irvin Clemens, Royersford, of the Royersford Rod and Gun Club; Joseph White, Narberth, Lower Merion Rod and Gun Club; Paul G. Hunsberger, Montgomery County Clerk of Courts, Gilbertsville Rod and Gun Club; Forrest Henry, Red Hill, Upper Perkiomen Rod and Gun Club; Russel Meyers, Ardmore, Wissahickon Field and Stream Association; Howard Shallcross, Graterford, Perkiomen Valley Sportsmen’s Association, and Merrill Fleming, Royersford, Royersford Hunting and Fishing Club.

Clemens is president of Montgomery County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs and Shallcross is a former president.
FISHING BILLS IN ASSEMBLY

Senate Bill No. 160, containing general amendments to the Fish Code was still "in committee," on April 7, but will no doubt be reported out in the near future. Letters have been received from the various groups endorsing this bill and assuring us of their support.

Bills introduced since our last report affecting the Fish Commission are as follows:

HOUSE BILLS

No. 511 This is a bill introduced by Rep. Krise, Clearfield County, amending Section 310 of the Act of June 22, 1937, known as the "Purity of Waters Act." Under the amendment clay mines will be exempted. If this should become a law, the section would read as follows:

"The provisions of this article shall not apply to acid mine drainage and silt from Coal or clay mines until such time as in the opinion of the Sanitary Water Board practical means for the removal of the polluting properties of such drainage shall become known."

No. 569 This is a bill introduced by Rep. Reagan, Union County, setting forth that owing to the high cost of food, etc., living expenses of our citizens can be reduced if they are permitted to catch fish with outlines, set lines, etc. If enacted into a law, would permit the devices during the months of June, July, and August, 1939 and 1940, excepting in trout streams.

SENATE BILLS

No. 206 This bill has been reported "out of committee" and is now before the Senate. It provides that all applications for licenses should be accompanied by a per capita school tax receipt for the last calendar year. This section reads as follows:

"No license or permit shall be issued or granted by any department, agency, board or commission of the Commonwealth to any person over twenty-two years of age unless the application for such license or permit shall be accompanied by a per capita school tax receipt for the last calendar year preceding the year in which the application is made issued in the name of the applicant."

WAR ON WATER SNAKES

War on water snakes was declared at a meeting of the Cooperdale Horsehoe Hunting and Fishing Club. The members voted unanimously to take concerted action against the reptiles that feed heavily upon trout stocked by the Fish Commission. By their action the Cooperdale sportsmen hope to save thousands of speckled beauties in the streams and call upon the members of other sportsmen's clubs throughout Pennsylvania to join in the campaign to control the worst natural enemy to fish life.

TO STAGE DRIVE ON WATERSNAKES

Nearly 1000 sportsmen and guests attended the annual banquet in March of the Lawrence County Sportsman Association, held in the Scottish Rite Cathedral dining room at New Castle. The association now has a membership of 1500 as compared to a membership of 500 last year. Featured was a fine program of addresses by Hon. Ross L. Leffler, Game Commission member, Hon. C. A. French, commissioner of fisheries, Merrill C. Merritt, vice president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, C. W. Weswell, in charge of Game Propagation, Game Commission, Hon. Robert Lambrick, Game Commission Member, Roger C. Rowland, state Secretary of Property and Supplies, John Mark and Chief Smith of the Polisher's Post, and others. General chairman for the event was W. Henry Rodgers and Robert Wallace, for the 15th year, served as toastmaster for the club at its annual dinner.

CHILDREN PLANT TREES IN LEHIGH

Boys and girls of Central Junior High School Conservation club were to help members of the Pioneer Fish and Game Association of Allentown in planting 4,000 tree seedlings Saturday, March 25, on the farm of William George, Heidelberg township, one mile north of the Golden Key hotel on Route 22.

Previous projects included 1,000 seedlings on the farm of Mrs. Hasler, near Sciopetown; 4,000 seedlings along a ravine in Mohn's orchard located on Route 22, north of Fogelsville; 5,000 seedlings on the farm of Thomas Irvin, Lowhill township, and 1,000 white and red pine seedlings on the farm of Henry A. Soltys, Upper Saucon township.

The reforestation committee of the association, Leo Bateman, chairman, estimated that to reforest the unwillable hillsides of the Jordan water shed alone would require 5,000,000 trees.

The future benefits of such projects are innumerable, conservation of water in the soil thus preventing floods and droughts, erosion of top soil and, last but not least, a much needed timber crop for future generations.

The planting crews consist of two boys and one adult supervisor. Each crew is supplied with one bucket in which they carry their quota of 400 trees and one mattock. This arrangement guarantees that each boy plant his quota. The adult supervisor follows each crew inspecting each tree for thorough tamping of soil and straightness. The trees are set on 6 feet centers, this requires approximately 1,200 trees per acre.

Each boy is furnished a copy of Circular 31, "Forest Trees to Plant in Pennsylvania."
CLINTON ANGLERS LANDED SUCKERS

Sucker fishing whirled away otherwise bone­
some days in the lives of many Clinton county
anglers and from here and there came reports
of fine catches. Most of the enthusiasts
persist in keeping tight lips, however, when in­
formation is sought as to the whereabouts of
their favorite haunts.

Fred Peters bears all the earmarks of being
one of the best, reporting more than 50 suckers
within a short time and challenges anyone to
duplicate the amount in any given time.

Anyway, he tells a story of fishing with three
other local anglers of fair repute near the Fish­
ing Creek dam above the ax factory site. He
pulled in seven in two hours while the per­
centage of his companions were point zero.

Others claiming a certain amount of success
are John Weaver who got a four-pounder, Eddie Fry, and Jim Smith.

TROUT SEASON BANNER DISPLAY

At the opening of the Christmas season each
year it is not an uncommon sight to see a ban­
er on display in store windows, "25 Shopping
Days ‘Til Christmas," but "Mo" Banker, the
Huntingdon druggist, has added a new wrinkle
to the banner business this year.

Alongside the large mirror, in front of the
soda fountain, he had a banner this year which
read, "21 Days ‘Til Trout Season."

The banner, says Druggist Banker, was in­
tended to work up added enthusiasm among the
sportsmen, so that when April 15 arrived, they
would not start hunting for the fishing rods, the
hooks, lines, sinkers, basket, boots, coat, cap,
a copy of the fish laws, etc., but would have all
the paraphernalia in one spot, ready to start
out in quest of the speckled beauties.

INDIANA SPORTSMEN SPONSOR CONTEST

The Indiana County Fish and Game Asso­
ciation is sponsoring a contest for membership
and for the largest trout caught of the three
species in Indiana County.

Prizes are to be given to members of associa­
tion or members of clubs affiliated with the
association.

The contest opens April 15 and ends July 1.
Fish should be registered at one of the follow­ing places:

Barclay Hardware Co., King Auto & Radio
Supply Co., Indiana Hardware Co., Buchanan’s
(at the railroad), Brown’s Boot Shop, J. M.
Stewart Co., Stahura’s Market, J. Arthur Rob­
inson, and The Committee.

The Committee—Earl Long, Jack Ness, A. J.
Stahura and H. W. McConn—will do the check­ing
and distribute prizes at the July meeting.

The prizes will be distributed as follows:
First Prize—"Silver Cup"—Indiana Hardware
Co.—For the longest trout caught.
Brook Trout—First prize, automatic reel,
Barclay Hardware Co.; second prize, fishing
trouser, Buchanan’s (at railroad).
Brown Trout—First prize, $10 fly rod or
casting rod, King Auto & Radio Supply Co.; second
prize, creel, Arthur Robinson.
Rainbow Trout—First prize, automatic reel,
King Auto & Radio Supply Co.; second prize,
fly line, Arthur Robinson.

Four boys or girls 16 years or under—Long­
est trout of any species—rifle, Indiana Hard­
ware Co.
Brook Trout—First prize, fly rod or
casting rod, King Auto & Radio Supply Co.; second
prize, pair of hightop fishing boots, Brown’s
Boot Shop.

Special prize—For the largest number of
water snakes; register the tails.—12 lb. ham,
Stahura Market.

Prizes on display at McConn’s.

MOYER SPEAKER AT LANCASTER DINNER

Gabriel H. Moyer, of Lebanon, gave an in­
teresting talk to about 100 persons who attended
the annual banquet of the Lancaster County
Sportsmen’s Association in observance of Na­tional Wildlife Week held in the United Span­
ish American War Veterans Home, at 141
South Queen Street.

The talk which was quite humorous from
start to finish also was filled with personal
anecdotes and the speaker in a well rounded
manner brought out the fact such an organiza­tion
can do much towards the preservation of
Wildlife.

The main speaker was introduced by Richard
S. Sillenberger, chairman of the banquet com­
mittee, who also presented Frank C. Edminster,
of the Soil Conservation Service and Norman
Garber, Regional Director of the Eastern Zone.

These speakers stressed the activities of soil
conservation and its relation to the sportsmen
and wildlife.

The program got underway after the group
indulged in a turkey dinner with all its fixings
and President Harry Harsh gave a short add­
dress of welcome and introduced Secretary J.
A. Norris and Treasurer, M. G. Dietrich, who
with Richard S. Sullenberger served as the
banquet committee in charge of the arrange­
ments.

Others called upon for brief remarks includ­
ed: William Kopp, of the Lancaster County
Fish and Game Association; Elmer Bomberger,
President and Abram Hershey, Secretary, both
of the Lititz Sportsmen’s Association; Allen
Wiker, President of the Federated Sportsmen
of Lancaster County; Fish Protector Horace
Fyle and Game Protector John M. Haverstick.

An interesting moving picture on “Let’s Go
Fishing,” was shown as well as several shorts.

Prizes donated by members and local mer­
chants totalling $70 were awarded to the fol­
lowing persons:

Clarence Glackin, E. L. Pfeistermacher, Rudy
G. Hess, Abram Hershey, Frank Diehm, Clif­
ford Artz, John Wagner, Elmer Klaus, Joseph
Buck, J. W. Schook, J. Kenneth Wilt, Ray
Geih, Martin W. Wolf, Phares Binkley and
Joseph Hess.

M. G. Dietrich, J. Nelson Millhouse, John J.
Millhouse, H. E. Harsh, Claude Ryan, Ross
Barley, Herbert Pontz, E. A. Shreiner, Nor­
man Garber, D. B. Wise, Samuel C. Roth, M.
B. Hess, George Knickle, W. O. Hertsho and
Garvin Ross.

Harry Wittmer, W. P. Henschen, Robert
Dиhm, Fred Olsen, Grace Zeil, Edgar
Schleeke, H. A. Fox, G. W. Millhouse, W. B.
Wisner and Walter Booher.

LUZERNE CLUBS AT BIG MEETING

A largely attended meeting of the Lu­
zerne County Federation of Sportmen’s Clubs
was held at the Frank Fisher Hotel, at Alberts
Corners.

Distribution of fish to the various streams of
the county was discussed at length and the or­
ganization went on record as being in favor of
removing the skunk from the protected list.

The unit also voted to support the petition of
the Lower Luzerne Federation calling for
amendments to the present groundhog law.
WOULD HAVE ANGLERS REPORT VIOLATIONS

The County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs in Clearfield county is asking sportsmen to report any instances of illegal preseason fishing that come to their attention.

"Word was received that this despicable, lawless practice went on last year," said a spokesman, "and this year a concerted, constant watch will be maintained night and day, and any person caught fishing or in possession of trout, regardless of size, will be prosecuted to the fullest extent."

Several thousand hatchery trout were placed in 11 streams of the county in preparation for the season opening on April 15.

The Irvona club is to be congratulated on the splendid cooperation it gave the committee in charge of the testimonial dinner for G. A. Stewart, having sold more tickets than any other club in the county.

The dinner not only marked a successful milestone in county sportsmen's activities but the committee's financial report shows a favorable balance after paying all expenses.

SUCKER CATCHES

Sucker fishing was very good early in April and provided some real nice catches in the Conewago Creek near Palmyra. Tom and Bill McLauren, Lebanon, caught 9 suckers, averaging 2 pounds a piece and 6 catfish.

Sam Rutherford, of Bainbridge, made a record catch of 6 suckers weighing over 3 pounds and 2 weighing over 4 pounds.

John Krodel, Middletown, caught 5 suckers averaging from 2 to 3½ pounds apiece and one 7 pound carp.

Warden Frank Sands believes that a few warm days should improve fishing a great deal for warm water fish.

SAVE OUR FISH

Writes N. B. Sutton of Coraopolis:

"Not bragging, but I fish the Pennsylvania and Ohio waters from April to November. I try to educate through conversation the people I meet on the streams in conservation. I see harmful practices galore and my blood runs cold on seeing lots of things that are done without thought or in ignorance. The outstanding one is, with all alike, the releasing of undersize fish that are caught."

"There should be a law" requiring all fishermen to carry a small pair of scissors to snip the snell or line close to the mouth of undersize fish. Here is how it may be done. The fish may be brought to hand with the reel. Take hold of the line one foot from the fish, bring fish to the surface without touching it with the hand and snip off the line at the mouth of the fish. It will probably then live as it was never touched with the hand or taken out of the water. If you try the same thing with a knife, it becomes very awkward and nine times out of ten you must handle your fish.

PLANT WILLOWS

Montgomery county sportsmen's associations are alert to the need for more shore cover on their streams, both to furnish shade and serve as an aid against erosion, writes Warden Harry J. Cole, of Norristown.

"I just finished distributing 10,750 French willow cuttings among the clubs of my district. These shoots will be planted along stream banks."

A vital factor in the drive for better shore cover in the county has been the splendid cooperation of Adolph Muller, former member of the Game Commission, through the DeKalb nurseries.

Cole also reports heavy catches of suckers in the Neshaminy Creek, at Crain Bridge. Four fishermen, he writes, took 50 suckers at this spot on morning of March 19.
watersnakes destroyed during 1938 would have killed that year 79,300 fish.

"Of the total number of watersnakes destroyed last year, approximately 800 were killed in or adjacent to trout waters. The balance, or 786 snakes, were killed in or adjacent to waters inhabited by other game fish. Now, it is very likely that a watersnake in trout waters will kill 10 trout and 40 other fish during the period of one year; therefore, by causing the removal of 800 watersnakes from our trout waters, we feel justified in making the claim that we have saved 8,000 trout and 32,000 other fish in those waters. In waters inhabited by other game fish, we will assume that a watersnake will kill five small bass or pike and 45 other fish during a year. By causing the removal of 786 watersnakes from these waters, we feel justified in making the claim that we have saved 3,390 bass and pike and 35,370 other fish in those waters. We may be wrong in claiming that we have saved more than 79,000 fish. Our estimate may be high, and, on the other hand, it may be low, but we give you some food for thought."

The interest being taken by organized sportsmen in the present day conservation movement is one of the most encouraging omens for improved fishing. There is definite reason to believe that increasing numbers of our fishermen are discarding the "full creel" idea and adopting instead the slogan "Fish for Sport and a Sportsman's Creel". As this crusade of sportsmanship gains headway, the chances of the average fisherman for a day's good trout fishing around the middle of the season increase proportionally. An ideal to build to would be some future date when the vast majority of our fishermen discard the legal limit idea and set their own personal limits, governed by their immediate need, in most instances well below the daily catch permitted under the Fish Law. The Game Commission, through its system of primary, secondary and auxiliary refuges and controlled shooting grounds, has carried forward its program with phenomenal success in recent years. Pennsylvania gunners, with comparatively few exceptions, have respected the "strand of wire" about these refuges, realizing that in so doing they were insuring their future sport through the saving of valuable seed stock. All of which gives us pause for thought. Would it be possible to establish on some of our trout and bass waters fish refuges, properly posted, to serve a similar purpose? We know that the strict regulations governing fishing at the Commission's highly popular "Paradise" on Spring Creek, Centre county, have been, with few exceptions, complied with in a most commendable manner by the anglers who find sport at the Project. With proper publicity in bringing home the fact that such water areas were being set aside for the benefit of the individual fisherman and others who find sport on his pet water, there is reason to believe that these sanctuaries would be universally respected. The ultimate benefit of trial water areas of this type could only be determined after periods of from five to 10 years and would, of necessity, bear directly on improvement of fishing in streams where tried.

Finally, the fishing public must come to realize that one of the most pressing threats to the future of the angling sport on Pennsylvania's intensively fished waters is that of land posting and the acquisition of fishing waters by private interests. Already, in the Poconos, many sections of fine trout waters are posted against fishing. The Monroe-Pike Sportsmen's Association, through its splendid good-will campaign, has won the cooperation of many farmers in the district with the result that many more miles of trout waters have been made available to the fishermen. These good-will campaigns, being conducted by organized sportsmen in many sections, are molded with the idea of bringing better feeling and understanding into the farmer-sportsman relationship. That this movement is one of the most vital in the present-day fishing picture, few sportsmen would deny. With the rapidly increasing number of anglers, every foot of available fishing streams is needed, and a cordial feeling between landowners and sportsmen is the need of the hour.

In this somewhat rambling discussion, we have attempted to outline some of the problems facing the fisherman of today. The ANGLER will welcome for publication views of its readers concerning present day fishing. Tight lines.
YOU NEVER CAN TELL ABOUT TROUT

Trout are curious critters, Frank Gable, of Pottsville, admits, as he reminisces over an experience that befell him last year.

Gable, eagerly awaiting the opening day, says that last season, while fishing on a county stream, he stood in one spot and cast until his arm was sore. Then growing disgusted, he asked a 14-year-old youth, who was with him to take the rod and see what he could do.

The youngster took hold of Gable's "beanpole" and during the transfer the fly dropped sloppily on the creek with a splash near Gable's feet. Instantly there was a streak of brown where the fly landed and the young lad had hooked into a trout that was close to a foot in length.

Gable was excited, and so was the boy. It was only a matter of seconds until the trout was loosened and scurrying up the creek to a safe hole beneath a rock.

It just goes to prove that one never knows what a trout will do. Gable's experience may sound unusual to some, but to anglers of Schuylkill County who have fished Penn's Creek in Centre County, there is nothing unusual about it.

On days when the trout wouldn't hit in that creek one often dragged a dry fly up through the creek and took them or else let the fly hit the water on the back cast and did the same thing.

COMMISSIONER SPEAKS AT SHENANGO DINNER

Charles A. French, State Commissioner of Fisheries, was the principal speaker at the annual banquet of the Shenango Valley Sportsmen's Association, held in the Methodist Church in New Wilmington, Friday, March 10.

Other speakers included Robert Lambert, Franklin, member of the State Game Commission, and Hayes T. Englert, Oil City, Division Supervisor, writes Dick Nelson, of New Wilmington.

Among the record crowd of 250 persons were guests from New Castle, Sharon, Ellwood City, Bessemer and Evans City.

Vic Minteer, president of the Association, and C. B. "Rosy" White, Lawrence-Mercer county fish warden, acted as master of ceremonies. William Evans is secretary of the Association.

State game and fish pictures were shown as part of the evening's entertainment.

SUCKER FISHERMAN DOES IT DELUXE

Henry White, Waynesburg, Greene county, sucker fisherman has strong faith in fishing for suckers when it's raining at a lively rate. He's prepared for it, reports J. Fred McKean, Fish Commission member.

White has constructed an ingenious structure of pipe framework, covered on all but the creek side with heavy water and windproof tarpaulin. It may be pouring outside, but he sits in comfort, watching his lines from a storebox, with a lantern burning to provide heat, a radio and an easy chair.

Beating that arrangement, you sucker fishermen!

WANT CCC CAMP PLACED ON CEDAR RUN

A constitution and bylaws were adopted by the newly-organized Community Rod and Gun Club at a meeting held in March. Forty-two new members were enrolled at the meeting.

Plans were discussed by the members to have a CCC camp established on Cedar Run, south of Portage. Bob's Creek and Piper's Run will be used as reserve streams by the sportsmen. The association will also make efforts to acquire several acres of farmland in the vicinity for raising game. The association will meet every Monday until April 15, at the Moose Hall. Dr. J. H. Benko is president of the club.

MONROE-PIKE NOTES

At a well-attended meeting of the Monroe-Pike Sportsmen's Association in the Municipal Hall at East Stroudsburg on March 24, attention centered on trout stocking reports given by Fish Wardens Frank Brink of Milford, and Harry Custard of East Stroudsburg. Heavily stocked streams will await the opening day fishermen in that section of the state, they told the sportsmen.

Both wardens were enthusiastic in their praise for the splendid exhibit of the association at the National Sportsman Show, in New York, an exhibit that has drawn nationwide attention.
Living in the back country of Canada is J. Clive Briand, young Irish-Canadian, who sometime ago wrote the following letter to Phil Platt of Wallingford: "I wonder would you be in a position to forward me a few old hunting and fishing magazines. I found your name and address in the Isaac Walton League of America and would also like to swap a few friendly letters with you if you will only honor me with your friendship. I am an Irish-Canadian young fellow 24 years old, living all alone on a small farm in a very lonely backwoods settlement following the recent death of my good parents and I find the time and dreary, so you will be doing a real work of mercy by sending me something to read." Clive’s address, Angler readers, should you have any old sporting magazines to send him, is Douglastown, Gage Co., Quebec, Canada.

Trout fishermen go out in large numbers from Mount Carmel every season, but that Northumberland county borough still retains its rank as the “carp fishing capital in Pennsylvania." Some interesting data on carp fishing has been gathered by St. Patrick of Punxsutawney, a dean in the carp fishing fraternity in the town. Of carp catches made during the Spring last year, he writes, 60% were registered with that old favorite bait, the doughball.

In direct contrast to this finding is the following made by Frank V. Stutsman of Twin Lakes, Pike county. By checking up on catches of pickerel made while ice fishing, he found that season takes were as follows: (1) All females; (2) one male, 6 females; (3) two males, 8 females; (4) two males, 10 females; (5) and (6) all females. The final result he writes, showed that of the entire catch checked, 80% were female pickerel and that virtually 100% of yellow perch taken while ice fishing were female fish.

To the willow planting campaign under way this year, add another type of planting to beautify fishing waters, planting with water lilies. Writes Warden Dean R. Davis, Punxsutawney, Jefferson county: "Through the splendid cooperation of the Fish Commission and the National Youth Administration, we were able to secure a project known as ‘by planting’ on Little Mahoning Creek, Canoe and East Mahoning townships in Indiana county. During the fall of 1937, I lifted from various old sloughs and transplanted a number of lilies, establishing several nice beds.

"Last autumn we planted a total of 910, reinforcing some of the beds and planting a great number of new places. Realizing the great benefit that the stream, fish life and fish food derive from plant life, we believe this should be a very worthy project."
Lines To A Fly Tyer

By EDDY THOMPSON (his wife)

This is the plaint of the wife of the fly tyer,
Angler and sportsman, Waltonian liar;
His den is be-littered with feathers and stuff,
Forever I'm picking up bucktail and fluff;
Hats are not safe, for this relentless cadger
Searches them all for a good piece of badger;
My very best saucepans are now used for dyeing
That elusive hackle for which he's e'er prying;
The blue dun, the Cahill, he ties them up fast,
His talk is redundant with "takes" of the past;
His leisure is spent with these elegant flies,
From dinner 'til bedtime he ties and he ties;
He drops them in fishbowls to see how they'll ride,
I mourn for the goldfish now—(seven have died).
We used to converse of this and that book,
Now all he's concerned with is size of the hook;
He once bought a live duck to loot it for hackle,
The necks that I dust 'round have long lost their cackle;
Each drawer is all labelled for "these, those and them,"
But if anything's lost, then it's "cherchez la femme;"
He's a fresh water fisherman—heaven forbid
That he'd ever embark in pursuit of the squid!
What's more, this bug that has bitten him hard
Has gotten me, too, and so we're both tarred
With the same brush (or feather)—and now what I'm wishin's
For maids to clean after him—while I go a-fishin'!
BROTHER ANGLER—

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