

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I started writing these articles back in January I had hoped to keep them upbeat and positive knowing that reporting on fly fishing was something very enjoyable. As many of you know the Little Lehigh has been a great place to fish throughout the years for our "Old Farts" group. What makes it a great place to fish is its grassy banks and no wading for the older fishermen, deep pools for the nymphers and a few rising fish for the dry flyers. We would make an almost weekly pilgrimage starting in March through October.

This year we started in late March with a trip and the stream was fine. Lots of fish and fishermen, all was well. It was hard to find a parking space. I took the month of May off for fishing trips outside of the area and I was really looking forward to getting into the weekly trips and the upcoming Trico hatch, a dry fliers dream. Well, we returned this week to find a stream in trouble. The pools that were loaded with fish last year and early in the season were devoid of fish and the parking lot was empty. Our group were the only fishermen on the stream.

The big question is "What happened?" Of course everyone we spoke to had a different theory, everything from poachers to heron. Continuing on the heron theory, do you know there are 17 "nesting" heron on the stream (not too sure about the odd number since "nesting" usually refers to pairs)? A gentleman of the "Cracker-barrel" crew, the guys that hang out at the fly shop, who professed the heron theory even broke out his calculator and started doing some math, "Let's see seventeen heron, two fish a day times 365 days equals 12,410 fish a year". I'm sure he meant well but it was hard to keep a straight face. But still the question remains, what could have changed a stream so drastically in only 6 weeks? I do hope the Little Lehigh does not go the way of the Tulpehocken and take years to recover.

New Business: Craig Hull will be visiting us at this month's meeting. This means two things, first we'll learn some new fly tying techniques and secondly he will be bringing 10,000 flies to offer at very reasonable prices. He has also offered to donate "A day on the Stream". This is a guided day on the Yellow Breeches.

Remember our July meeting is the barbeque and will be starting earlier. Also I am looking for some volunteers for our "Mentoring" program. So if you would like to work with any of our new members or if you are a new member looking for some assistance please see me.

See you at the meeting June 27th.

Bob Powell