

January 2015 Newsletter

Happy New Year from Penns Creek Guides! It's January, the month named for Janus, the Roman god who looks to the past and to the future. I don't claim even minor deity status but allow me to look back to the 2014 season and to what lies ahead in 2015. And welcome to first time recipients of this infrequently published newsletter. I hope you find my Newsletter informative and entertaining. Your comments and advice are most welcome.

During the latter part of the 2014 angling season you may have noticed the absence of newsletters from PCG. For a number of months family concerns have required my attention and efforts. The situation continues to improve, thank you and 2015 promises to be better. Also at the same time last year, technical difficulties contributed significantly to the lack of missives from Penns Creek Guides. Those concerns have now been successfully addressed so newsletter mailings are back on track. Please note, my business email address has *not* changed, it is still pennscreekguides1@yahoo.com The suffix 'gmail.com' in the From line of this email is part of the work-around and is for group mailing purposes only.

On a brighter note, 2014 was a truly remarkable season! Good weather, excellent water levels, hatches occurring about when they were expected, trout willing to play, most of the time... And above all, wonderful clients who enjoyed the experience of fly fishing exceptional limestoners and angling for the wild trout of Central Pennsylvania. We began fishing in March and ended the guide season in early November, an excellent run by any measure!

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest, albeit belated, gratitude to all my clients for making the 2014 season so successful and enjoyable; beyond anything I could have anticipated. The memories of days on the water, trout landed, the laughter and fellowship, the sheer joy we shared on the water fills me with satisfaction and has me anticipating the advent of another season. It has been great fun making new friends, teaching and learning from you while we were on the water. How I love this "job"! Again, I'd like to say Thank You for a memorable fishing season.

Predicting the future is not in my skill set but looking to the first few months of 2015 I can tell you with certainty Penns Creek Guides will be participating in these fly fishing shows:

- **Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo**, Saturday, January 31st, 9:30am-3:30pm, Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, Brecksville, Ohio. Sponsored by the North Coast Fly Fishers.
- **Cabin Fever Show**, Sunday, February 22nd, 9am-4:30pm, Four Points Sheraton (North), Mars, PA. Sponsored by the Penns Woods West Chapter, Trout Unlimited.
- **Lancaster Fly Fishing Show**, Saturday: 9am-6pm and Sunday: 9am-4:30pm, February 28th and March 1st Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA.
- **Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Heritage Day**, Saturday, June 20th, 9am-4pm, Allenberry Resorts, Boiling Springs, PA. Sponsored by the PA Fly Fishing Museum Association.

Please stop by our booth to say hello and watch expert fly tier Dale Webb work his magic with fur, feathers and steel. Dale will be tying the patterns useful on limestone streams of Central Pennsylvania. Don't miss these demonstrations of fly tying artistry!

Dale's patterns remind me that when fishing our spring creeks selecting what fly to use and when can be challenge at times. When I look into my fly boxes and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly, water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, and what the fish are eating right now I recollect what a guide out West once told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.' Fly selection for spring creeks isn't quite that simple but the guide's words are (trout) food for thought...

By the way, have you made a New Year's resolution to spend more time fly fishing in 2015? Do you enjoy the challenge of catching wild brown trout? Would you like to explore new streams this season? Most fly anglers certainly would. Then something you can look forward to this fishing year is a guided excursion with Penns Creek Guides. It's not too early to book a trip or purchase a gift certificate for 2015. Penns Creek Guides wading staffs are available too. Please contact me via email at pennscreekguides1@yahoo.com or give me a call at 814-364-9142 and we can arrange your trip.

As winter drags on and cold weather keeps me off of the trout streams, I contemplate a remark made by Roderick Haig-Brown "There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home." I can't wait to get back to it, how about you?

Stay warm, be well and I'll see you at an upcoming fly fishing show.

Sincerely,
Tom Doman