



CONEWAGO FLY FISHERMAN NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009

www.flyfisher.com

www.worldfishingforum.info

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Published by E. Macri Aquatic and Environmental Scientist and Riverkeeper

Welcome to the Conewago Fly Fisherman Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it. In the coming issues we will discuss a variety of topics from stream biology, flies, insect hatches and fishing technique. Just a little report on the stream. The stream is maintaining two wild strains of brown trout and two wild strains of rainbow trout. The strains are reproducing and we do not stock browns or rainbows in the stream. We stock brook trout which do not interfere with the browns or rainbows.

This year we stocked approximately 1000 brook trout in four stockings. We are monitoring the brook trout population also. We have found some small fingerling brook trout. If this population takes off we reduce the number of brook trout in the future.

This year the stream did not experience a real drought condition. The winter so far has been wet which is also good for the stream. Autumn fishing for most has been spectacular. As far as the population of fish in the stream we have over 6 browns reaching the 20 inch mark or greater in our waters. This is actually better than the famed spring creek, Letort Spring Run according to the PA Fish Data!

If you have any questions, or comments please contact me at the above email address or by snail mail:

**gene macri
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Notes from Rob and Gene

- 1: Stay off the Wooden Bridge Near the Fishing Shack. It's Unsafe and we are Repairing It!
2. Barbless Hooks at All Times
3. Touch the fish as little as possible
4. When Using Tandem Rigs be careful not to snag fish.
5. For Safety Purpose Use a Wading Staff
6. When bringing a guest please notify one of us before hand.
7. Members always needed to help patrol the stream.
8. Members should report to us anything disturbing or out of the ordinary.

My Fly Fishing Websites

www.flyfisher.com
www.worldfishingforum.info
www.limestoner.com
www.flyfishingforbrooktrout.com
www.flyfishingforbrowntrout.com
www.yellowbreechescreek.com
www.letortspringrun.com
www.fallingspringrun.com
www.bigspringcreek.com
www.aquaticinstitute.com
www.eugenemacri.com

**Guiding and Instruction
Available**

GENE MACRI'S HATCH CHART CONEWAGO FLY FISHERS

Insect	Emergence	Notes
Little Brown Stonefly	Late Feb-March	Size 14
Little Black Stonefly	Late Jan-Feb	Size 14-16
Black Quill	March-April	Size 12-14 Upper Areas of the Conewago
Blue Quill	April-May	Size 14 Specific Current Speeds
Quill Gordon	Mid April-May	Size 12 Sporadic; Specific areas
Hendrickson	Late April-Mid May	Size 14 Sporadic; Specific areas
Yellow Brown Stonefly	May to September	Size 10-14 Faster Water
Dark Brown Stonefly	May to September	Size 8-12 Faster Water
March Brown	Mid May to June	Size 10-12 Sporadic; large populations in lower areas
Green Caddis	May to July	Size 12-16
Light Brown Speckled Caddis	May to July	Sizes 12-16
Dark Brown Caddis	March-May	Size 14-16 Sporadic
Sulfur Dun	May-July	Size 14-16; Large Populations in lower Conewago
Mahogany Dun	Late May-September	Size 12- 14 Specific areas
Light Cahill	Late June-August	Size 14-16 Conewago: lower areas; sporadic elsewhere
Dark Cahill	Late May -July	Sizes 14-16 Sporadic
Black Fly	Late May-Sept.	Size14-18 Black Fly Larvae
Midges	All Year	Sizes 16-32; various colors
Blue Winged Olive	All Year	Sizes 14-18 Sporadic

FLY HATCHES ON THE CONEWAGO

SPECIAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE CONEWAGO FLY FISHERS CLUB

BY

EUGENE MACRI



Fly Hatches On Stream Types

The Conewago is a tumbling little freestone stream subject to high and low water conditions. Therefore, the organisms that live there, the benthic community (mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies etc.) must be able to withstand these conditions. The areas of the stream leased by the Conewago fly fishermen are basically the best overall water on the stream because this part of the stream maintains the best flow during the year with the lowest stream temperatures.

The stream is not that rich of a stream but it has a number of different classic fly hatches including The Quill Gordon (*Eperous*), the Hendrickson (*Ephemerella subvaria*), and the Mahogany Dun (*Isonychia*) just to name a few. The insects are not in large numbers in any one section with the exception of midges which are prolific in the Conewago. However, I had the best Quill Gordon hatch I have fished in years on this stream in Mid- April. The hatch went on for over three hours and I landed a ton of fish using a Quill Gordon Nymph and Emerger Pattern.

You must keep an eye out for the hatches. The Conewago in our area has a lot of different water types so the insect populations, many which are substrate (bottom material) and current specific will change quickly on any given stretch.

Emergence Conditions

The hatches on the Conewago vary with water temperature, air temperature, wind, light and volume of water in the stream. The important point about stream temperature is whether it's moving to the optimum condition of the insects that emerge not necessarily whether it's going up or down. In the early season the best fishing with hatches is usually between 11:00 and 4:00 on this stream As the season progresses this changes because this little stream gets varying amounts of sunlight depending on how the sun hits the water coming through the gorge. So adjust your fishing accordingly and use a stream thermometer.

Watching the Fish and Hatches

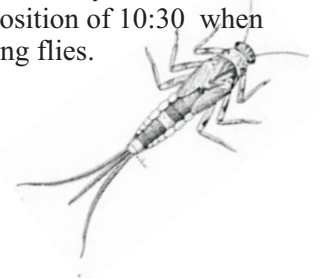
I recommend using a small pair of binoculars to scan the water for hatches and rising or moving fish. These are easily carried in your vest and can be bought for as little as \$15.00 on the web. The hatches are sometimes hard to see on this stream so the fly angler must be really observant. This is especially true with small mayflies like the Blue Winged Olive (*Baetis*) which like to emerge on windy and wet days. Keep an eye out for these small mayflies which will emerge in one small section of the stream and the fish will go wild while other sections of the stream will have little or none of the hatch.

Using The Hatch Chart

The hatch chart is just a guide. These are the approximate order in which the insects are most likely to emerge. There is great overlap and as always realize that you may be getting certain insects on one section of the stream and not in the section right above or below you. Furthermore, the trout will take the nymphs during that time period whether you see them emerging or not because the insect tend to be more active.

You must use weight to get your nymphs down in most instances. This will cause you to lose flies etc. but there is no other way to get and keep the fly down into the layers where the trout are feeding especially in the spring.

One of the mistakes I have noticed by many anglers fishing the Conewago is that they have too much line out. If you are using a 9 foot rod with a 9 foot leader and you have 8 feet of line out you have around 27 feet of reach! This is more than enough to fish most sections of the stream. Use a short line high rod technique when fishing upstream. When fishing downstream your rod should be in the position of 10:30 when drifting flies.



The Fly Box for The Conewago

by

Gene "Guido" Macri

The following list of flies is for suggestive purposes only. I have caught trout on the Conewago on all of these patterns. Many other patterns will work. Most fly anglers already have most of these patterns. Keep checking the websites (worldfishingforum.info and www.flyfisher.com) for updates and hot patterns. Tie these flies in a variety of sizes. Size is often very important on the stream on certain days especially if the fishing pressure is heavy in any given time frame. I like the Woolly Buggers in bead head versions too. They help sink the fly especially in high water. In most instances I like the weight above the nymph. On some nymph patterns I will add some weight to shank but I still use a small shot above the fly, around 10 to 12 inches.

Nymphs:

Casual Dress
Muskrat
Hare's Ear G.R.
Sulfur Nymph
Green Caddis Larva
Hendrickson
Quill Gordon
Lt. Brown Nymph
Dk. Brown Nymph
Pheasant Tail
Blue Winged Olive
Red Worm Larva
Brown Worm Larva
White Worm Larva
Midge Larva (all colors)
Brassie
Brown Stonefly Nymph
Light Brown Stonefly Nymph
Early Black Stonefly Nymph
Dark Brown Stonefly Nymph
Little Crayfish Pattern
Midge Pupa
Black Fly Larva
Various Beadheads
Cranefly Larva

Wet Flies

Royal Coachman
Hare's Ear G.R.
Cow Dung
Coachman
Grey Peacock
Yellow Peacock
The Professor
April Gray
Black Gnat
Cranefly Wet

Soft Hackles

Partridge Orange
Partridge Brown
Sulfur Yellow
Grizzly Orange
Grizzly Black

Terrestrials

Inchworm
Deer Hair Beetle
Foam Beetle
Fur Ants
Letort Hopper
Letort Cricket
Joe's Hopper
Misc. Foam Patterns

Dry Flies:

White Wulff
Humpy
Sulfur Dun
Light Cahill
Dark Cahill
March Brown
Hendrickson
Mahogany Dun
Stimulators
Quill Gordon*
Brown Bivisible
Blue Dun Bivisible
Dry Winged Ant
Grizzly Bivisible
Cranefly

Misc.

Red Worm
Pink Worm
Brown Worm
Egg Flies
Woolly Worms
San Juan Worm

Streamers:

Black Ghost
White Maribou
Black Maribou
Yellow Maribou
Mickey Finn Maribou
Black and Olive Wooley Buggers
Black Wooley Bugger
White Wooley Bugger
Brown Wooley Bugger
White Rabbit Matuka
Black Leech
Brown Leech
Clouser Minnow Patterns
Muddler Minnow
Maribou Mudler

