

# Sunnybrook Catch & Release



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The Monthly Newsletter of Sunnybrook Trout Club – April 2017

## Spring Stocking Has Begun! First load placed in the stream March 23rd

The new season has begun. The Wild Game Dinner was our unofficial kick off, and the first stocking of the year is added proof that we are ready for another great year at the club. If Mother Nature will co-operate, it should be all systems forward.

As we begin the new year, I have an important announcement to make. Dugan has been offered an opportunity in the private sector that he feels is too good to pass up. He leaves with a heavy heart, but feels it is the best decision for him and his family. His last day on the job was March 30<sup>th</sup>. He and Stephanie will continue to reside on the property until April 31 and Stephanie will continue working during that time training our new employees.

Dugan's culinary skills and Stephanie's smiling face will be missed, and I'm sorry to see them go. Fortunately I have been able to fill the void with another excellent couple.

Dan & Heidi O'Connor are friends of mine and familiar faces at Sunnybrook that were looking for a change in lifestyle. They happened to be available at the right time. Dan's history with the club goes back to the very beginning of my tenure here. He has performed at multiple club activities as part of the musical group "Dan & Don," and been a guest of the lodge on many occasions.

Heidi will be retiring after 32 years of teaching in the public schools and as a team she & Dan have operated the Gateway nursery & kindergarten school in Toledo for the last 27 years. They bring a wealth of experience operating a family business and dealing with the general public.

It's said that with every door that closes, a new one opens. I feel blessed that we have been fortunate

enough to have such a capable couple come forward at this time. They will be working alongside Stephanie on the weekends in April and will begin full time in May. Let's all go out of our way to welcome them to the club.



Dan & Heidi O'Connor join the Sunnybrook team

**WILD GAME DINNER UPDATE** – Our Wild Game Diner was a rousing success! Just over 100 members and friends of the club enjoyed an evening of exotic dining, comradere, spirited bidding on auction items and games of chance. By the time the evening ended, 40 door prizes had been awarded and \$5500.00 in cash had been given away.

Cash prize winners included...Ed Sopko = \$250.00, Jim Kaminski = \$500.00, Scott Lines = \$500.00, Paul Taylor = \$750.00, Mike Babiuch = \$1000.00 and Dennis Gamble = \$2500.00.

Lost in the festivities is the fact that this is an important fund raiser to help hold down stocking expenses incurred by the club. When the final number was tallied, just over \$8300.00 was raised. My thanks to all that participated.

Thanks are also due to members that contributed wild game or auction items. Here goes... Paul Biedenbach, Al Fischaber, Gary Frankowski, Doug Johnson, Dave Jackson, Rick Keller, Jane Kelly, Steve Kmetz, Dave Schilling, Ed Slowensky, Hal Stata, Paul Taylor, Chuck Teagarden, Bass Pro Shops, Maple City Ice Distributors and Mad River Outfitters. If I forgot anybody, it was unintentional and I apologize.



**FISHING REPORT-** Everyone knows that spring is the best time of the year to be on the water. Longer daylight hours and warming temperatures turn hungry fish into a feeding machine.

I remember previous springs, and it just seems that magically huge number of fish re-appear. Throw in some uneducated hatchery fish with our new stockings, and you have a recipe for success. Most any pattern will be successful and any time of the day seems to be the right time. One location that historically provides excellent fishing is on the upstream side of the lower weir. Migrating fish are moving down towards the lake, and when they reach our weir they are trapped. In previous years this was a can't miss scenario.

Before you head out to the stream, take care of general maintenance on your equipment. Here are a few tips...

\* Give your fly line a good cleaning. Soap & water works well or you can buy a commercial cleaner from your favorite fly shop. A clean line casts farther and easier.

\*Replace old worn tippet and leader. These materials grow brittle and weaken with exposure to sunlight or the raspiness of a trout's jaw bone. This easy task can mean the difference between landing the big one or lamenting the one that got away.

\*Check your vest to be certain you have an adequate selection of flies. It can be very frustrating to be on the stream and not have the fly fish are rising to.

\*Oil and grease your reel. This will insure a long life for this expensive investment.



**Sunnybrook Fly Shop**

Our fly shop is well stocked for the upcoming season. Stop in and replenish your depleted fly box. As a spring special, I've put together assortments of 12 flies for \$12.00. These are patterns I no longer carry in the shop or am overstocked with. It includes dries, wets and terrestrials. You do not get to pick your patterns. You must purchase the assortment as I have selected. This special pricing will be in effect for March only or until sold out. If you take advantage of this offer, record it on the bar sheet as "fly special," so I know to bill you the sale price.

A new delivery of the Sunnybrook embroidered Florida flats fly fishing shirt has been received. This long sleeved shirt is a cotton poly blend for easy care and a vented back for coolness. A rising trout logo and the Sunnybrook name are embroidered on the left chest. The shirt comes in several earthtone colors and costs \$69.00.

**LUNCH HOURS** – Lunch is served Wednesday through Sunday from 11:30-1:30. No reservations are necessary if you are a party of 4 or less. Groups of 5 or more, please give us advance notice so we can be prepared.

**BEDROOM REMODEL** – Over the past two months we have been busy remodeling one of the upstairs bedrooms. Bedroom #8 was a small room with no private bathroom. We took the shower room which was next to #8 and divided it in half. One half of the shower room was retained as a community shower, while in the other half we designed a private bathroom with a sink, toilet and shower. We then created an entrance from room #8 into the new bathroom.

The remodel turned out quite well and we now have another bedroom with a full private bath. It is one of our smaller bedrooms and will offer members a lesser priced room when they make an overnight visit to the club.