

Sunnybrook Catch & Release



1104 Fremont Ave.
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
Phone: 419.625.8353
Email: sunnybrooktroutclub@yahoo.com
Web: sunnybrooktroutclub.com

The Monthly Newsletter of Sunnybrook Trout Club – May 2017

Spring Fishing Has Taken Off!

members report outstanding success

Dugan & Stephanie have moved on and I wish them the best of luck in their new endeavor. It seems only a short time ago that I was welcoming them to the club, but it's actually been almost 4 years.

Dan & Heidi are now beginning the task of assimilating into their new position. They are anxious and energetic to move forward with this change in their lives and promise to be an important asset to the club. I was fortunate to find such capable replacements on such short notice and I am excited about the future. Please be certain to go out of your way to make them feel welcome at the club.



FISHING REPORT- There's a movie that was one of my Dad's favorites called *It Happens Every Spring*. While the movie is actually about baseball, its title is apropos for a yearly spring occurrence at the club. It seems that sometime near the end of April, we can count on phenomenal fishing on the lower stretches of the stream. Migrating fish trying to reach Lake Erie get trapped in this section of water by our weir and for several weeks the fishing is unbelievable. Members have reported catching 50 or more fish and that the fishing is actually too easy! Enjoy it while you can because it does not last indefinitely.

Weekly stockings have begun and our supplier has been providing us with a great selection of brooks,

browns and rainbows in all sizes. The brook trout have been especially beautiful with vivid orange under bellies and white tipped fins.

I've heard that most flies have been successful if fished properly. The dry fly fishing has been a real bonus on sunny days when the water warms a degree or two. We continue to feed the fish in the morning with a floating pellet. This keeps the fish healthy, encourages them to remain on our property and feed on the surface. This is probably one of the reasons dry fly fishing is so good at Sunnybrook.

With the advent of a new season at the club, it is important to reinforce everyone's understanding of club rules regarding catch & release. Unlike many other clubs, no one is required to keep the fish they catch at Sunnybrook. But with that right comes a responsibility of protecting our fish by exercising proper catch & release practices. Please don't assume that everyone else is the culprit! Take time to examine your practices.

*Barbless hooks are required. Take your hemostats and pinch down the barbs for easy release. I've joked many times that a barbless hook is removed easily from the fisherman just as it is from the fish. It never fails that several times a year a member comes to me to remove a hook he has caught on himself and it is not barbless.

*Land your fish as quickly as possible. Do not overplay a fish to exhaustion. If the fish is exhausted, revive it before release by gently cradling its belly in one hand and holding its tail in the other. Once it catches its breath and is able to swim away upright, it will be fine.

*Return your fish to the water as quickly as possible. Studies have consistently shown that the survival

rate of a trout decreases greatly if it is removed from the water for more than 30 seconds.

*Moisten your hands before handling your fish. Trout have a protective mucus coating that protects them from disease and infection. Handling a fish with dry hands removes this layer and disposes the fish to disease.

*Use only approved catch & release nets. This includes soft mesh or the newer rubber mesh nets. The older corded nylon nets are very abrasive on the fish and remove the protective slim just as your dry hands do.

*If you do hook a fish deeply, sacrifice the fly by cutting the line and letting the fish go. The hook will corrode away in several days and the fish will be none the worse. If the fish is hooked in the gills and bleeding, it is not going to survive. Don't release it to go to the bottom of the stream and die. Bring it in and we will make it into smoked trout.

ON THE GROUNDS – Sunnybrook is truly a beautiful setting. Our staff takes great pride in maintaining it. You can help make their job easier. Please do not dispose of cigarette butts, candy wrappers, used tippet or leaders and other micro trash in the parking lot. If you take a beverage out on the stream, return empty cans and bottles to trash receptacles. If you encounter trash along the stream, pick it up and dispose of it when you return to the clubhouse. Thanks, Doug.



FROM THE KITCHEN – With the addition of Dan & Heidi to our staff you may see several changes to our daily routine. It will take time for them to fully integrate and we ask for your patience as we make the change.

Lunch hours will continue to be from 11:30 – 1:30, but only six days a week. I have elected to close the lunch room on Tuesdays so that I (and our workers) can have some time off. The club will remain open

for fishing on Tuesday and the self serve snack & beverage area will be available. If you would like to pack a sandwich on that day, I am fine with that.

Friday Night Fish Fry & More will begin June 2nd, the first Friday after Memorial Day. The popularity of this dining opportunity continues to grow. We find that on some Fridays we are unable to accommodate all requests. We are limited not by the number of seats available, but rather by our kitchen size and meal preparation ability. We ask that reservations and meal selections be made in advance. This will aid us in timely meal service. As I did last year, an e-mail will be sent to all members early in the week listing dinner selections for that week.

We will not be hosting a Mother's Day Buffet this year. Mother's Day is only 2 weeks after Dan & Heidi start and I feel this is too much to ask of them so early. I believe they need to get some time in on the job and become comfortable with their new responsibilities.

LOST & FOUND – I have a lost & found in my office and I have accumulated quite an assortment of items left along the stream. Most common items are sunglasses, fly boxes and hemostats. If you have lost any of these items, stop in on your next visit to the club.



SUNNYBROOK FLY SHOP – Don't head out to the stream with an understocked fly box. Nothing is more frustrating than reaching into the vest for that can't miss pattern, only to find you don't have it. Our fly shop is well stocked with all the patterns you will need for a successful day at the club.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Doug Bunn Port Clinton, Ohio
Roger Schafer Cincinnati, Ohio