

# THE BOB DWYER FISHING CLUB OCTOBER – 2010

---

## President's Corner

The last week of September was when my father took off work. *Why?* Because that's when the "fall rains" used to start. For many years he would be sitting at an unknown residence in Bovina Center, the **Eisele's** or the **Hewitt's** during that last week of September. He would be fishing the Little Delaware, Batavia Kill and East Brook. This was a yearly ritual for many, many years beginning in the 30's up until his untimely death in 1983. The rain would come; the trout nearing their spawning time ... would bite.

Jump ahead to the past few years, especially this year, and notice how times have changed. No rain, no water, high sunny skies and very few trout. This ritual that all of us continue as members of the Bob Dwyer Fishing Club, has more now to do with camaraderie, food and drink and our club meeting.

The *fall rains* seem to arrive later each passing year and recently in excess of what the ground and streams can contain. This year's BDFC Fall Dinner Meeting and the Ray Williams Trophy week, brought with it, very low water, a few big trout, the usual camaraderie, a great dinner and I'm sure - *some tall tales*. We, also elected some new BDFC officers. Our new club president is **Len Winstanley** and our new vice president is **Tim Flynn**.



**Perry Dimmick**

The club trophies went to a couple of familiar faces this year. **Brian Grimes** was the winner of the hotly contested *Perry Dimmick Trophy* with a 14 ½" Brookie. Congratulations Brian, on your fine catch and a new name on the trophy. Once again, we had a double winner for the *Bob Dwyer* and *Ray Williams Trophies*. **John Miselnicky** won both of these with a single trout, a whopping 21 ¾" Brown Trout. Johnnie had previously won the *Bob Dwyer Trophy*, but had never won the *Ray William's Trophy*. So I congratulate my good brother-in-law on his terrific catch.

Now, here we are in October. Most of the trout fishing in the "club area" came to an end on the last day of September even though some streams remained open until mid October. But as usual, the rains came and the waters rose as most of us were motoring home after closing out another season. Of course, the flip-side is that the ensuing storms should give the trout some excellent water for their spawning. Maybe next year, it will be *your turn* ... for one of the trophies.

The dates for our Spring gathering have changed from our normal dates due to conflicts involving *Graduations*, *Mother's Day* and *Memorial Day*. Therefore, the *spring* fishing week will be from Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>, with the Dinner Meeting taking place at the Mountain Brook Inn on Saturday, June 11, 2011.

I would like to thank our host, **Gary Simmons** for his continued support. He is a gracious host and a great cook. There is also the great “*BDFC News Letter*” work done by **Jon Dwyer**. He has done a superb job of putting together our newsletters. Another member of the Dwyer family is sometimes forgotten and that is **Rob Dwyer**. He maintains the “*BDFC Web Site*.” Thank you very much Rob for the hard work and expertise that goes into maintaining that site. Incidentally, it can be accessed at: [bdfcweb.net](http://bdfcweb.net)

Finally, I would like to thank all of the club members for their support during my tenure as club president. It was my honor and pleasure to serve you and the BDFC. I urge all of you to treat Len and Tim, as you have me the past several years. A big thanks to **Peter Snetzko** and **Jim Flynn** for continuing to serve in their current club positions.



*Dave Dimmick*

**President**

**BDFC**

### **Trout Population Decline on the West Branch**

On Thursday, September 23, 2010 **Bob Dwyer**, **Jon Dwyer** and **Jim Flynn** met with the DEC in Stamford to discuss the problem with the declining number of trout being caught in the West Branch of the Delaware River over the past 3-4 years. We met with retiring Fish & Wildlife Technician **Fred Linhart** who has been a close friend of the BDFC over the years as a result of the relationship he developed with **Pat Grimes**, longtime publisher of the Club newsletter prior to Jon assuming these duties.

Fred admitted that the DEC shared somewhat the same concern we did. Being an avid fisherman himself, he too had noticed not only a decline in the quantity of trout, but also a decline in the spooking and catching of smaller trout as well. To this end, he informed us of a *study* that was convened to investigate the *merganser* bird which was multiplying in big numbers in the watershed.

After capturing several mergansers and pumping their stomachs, it was determined that not a whole lot of trout were readily identified in the process. However, Fred went on to explain that on one occasion, while using a tracking device which monitored a “*chip*” imbedded in a tagged trout, the beeping noise it emitted *dimmed* as a flushed merganser flew away. This gave the team cause to believe that these birds were not only eating trout but much larger trout than they had first suspected. Finally, all doubt subsided when the team was fortunate enough to come across a dead merganser. It was here, that they were able to dissect the bird and find a ten to eleven inch trout in its stomach. With this stroke of luck, they were able to substantiate that the merganser is indeed ... *a serious problem*.

Although Fred was retiring on Friday September 24, 2010 he did introduce us to the technician who would be continuing the effort in his stead. That is, the studying of the merganser phenomena in the future. We plan on contacting the DEC in the Spring and asking him to join us at the Club Dinner, where hopefully he can give us an update on their latest findings.

By the way, Fred also let us in on how he catches what big trout are still in the West Branch. He goes out at daylight and only fishes until the fog lifts, during which time, he uses but two lures ... a three inch *Rapala Count Down Minnow* and a five inch *Rapala Husky Jerk*. He only fishes big holes (sound familiar) making two *good casts* per hole and then moves on to the next, fishing as many big holes as he can. Fred, we wish you the best in your retirement and look forward to seeing you along the river.



## *Bob Dwyer, Jr.*

**Field Editor**

**BDFC**

### Merganser

The name '*merganser*' comes from a combination of the Latin words *mergus* (diver) and *anser* (goose). The common merganser is found throughout the northern hemisphere. Males average slightly larger than females and have long head feathers which lie smoothly rounded behind his head, not normally forming an erect crest as is the case with most web-footed water birds (cormorants). Adult males have a white body with a variable salmon-pink tinge. This salmon-pink tinge is obtained from the carotenoid pigments present in some crustaceans (cray-fish) and other fish which makes up the merganser's diet. His head and neck is covered in an iridescent green plumage of such surpassing depth that it appears to be black, much like that of a hummingbird. His rump and tail feathers are grey, and his wings largely white on the inner half and black on the outer half.



**Common Merganser (male)**

When not diving for food, mergansers are usually seen swimming on the waters surface or resting on rocks in midstream often half-opening their wings to the sun. In larger streams and rivers, they float downstream for a couple of miles and either fly back again or more commonly fish their way back, diving incessantly the whole way. They are commonly found in pairs or small groups and they float down stream, twisting round and round in the rapids, or fishing vigorously in some deep pool near the foot of a waterfall

or a long set of rapids. Generally, they are wary and one or more birds stay on sentry duty to warn the flock on the approach of danger. When "*spooked*," they take flight. But in order to rise from the water they must first flap along the surface for many yards until such time they are airborne, after which their flight is strong and rapid.



Nesting normally takes place in a tree cavity, thus requiring a mature forest as its breeding habitat. The female most often lays eight to twelve white to yellowish colored eggs and raises one brood per season. Mergansers are sometimes referred to as 'sawbills' because of their long serrated bills. These narrow bills, hooked at the tip and set with numerous horny denticulations (teeth), are adapted for catching fish – a merganser's primary source of food. Mergansers usually feed on small to medium-sized fish (*including trout*) which they capture *under water*, by swift pursuit. These divers, also supplement their piscine diet with frogs, cray-fish and a variety of aquatic insects. Overall, the species is not threatened, though persecution by *game fishing interests* could serve to be a problem for them in some areas. *Hopefully, those areas will include the Catskills. We wish our friends at the DEC success in their efforts to come up with the appropriate means to minimize the impact that these birds have on this most precious and fabled fishery. We stand ready to support them in any way we can.*

### 2010 Trophy Winners



**Brian Grimes won the Perry Dimmick Trophy with this 14 1/2 inch Brookie**



**John Miselnicky, pictured to the right with his 21 3/4 inch Brown Trout. This beauty, caught in the upper reaches of the Batavia Kill, got him two trophies: The BDFC Trophy for the largest trout of the season as well as the Ray Williams Trophy which is awarded for the largest trout caught during the Club's designated September outing**



**With the fishing somewhat bleak the early part of the week. Jim Flynn, Jon Dwyer, Fr. Tom Keating and Bob Dwyer decided to go golfing at the College Course in Delhi**



**The following morning after coffee & muffins, Bob decided (since it was about noon) we might as well *head em up and move em out*; it's time to go fishing!**



**Jim Flynn agreed with a resounding: “You Betcha Bob!”**

**Some nice trout were caught over the course of the next couple of days**



**A fine mess of trout taken by Peter Snetzko. Boy has he come a long way!**





Len Winstanley chipped in with a couple of nice trout as well. Notice the coloring of the *Brownie* on the bottom, might it have been caught in his most beloved ... Tremperskill?

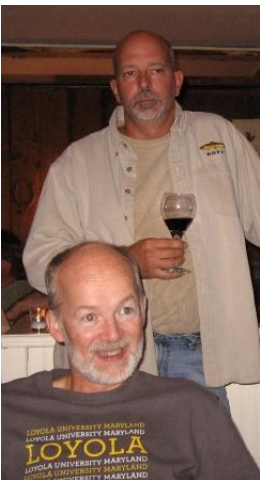
The dinner bell just rang



Fr. Tom Keating, responding to Len's question "How big, was that one that got away?"



Eben Jordan and Mike Glavin are welcomed by Don Dimmick and Pat Grimes



Tim Flynn and Kevin Grimes look on as Tim's dad Jim cleans out the crab cakes that our hostess Tammie Favret tries to get around to all her guests

Notice the look on Tim's face not to mention .... Kevin's







**Remember the commercial “Where’s the beef?” Well it’s right here at the Mountain Brook Inn, where Chef Gary and his lovely partner Tammie prepare it to the delight of all of their guests ... “bon appetite”**



**After dinner and a number of hours of cleaning up, Gary finally let out a sigh of relief by stating**

**“Thank God, they’re finally leaving!”**



**So as the leaves change and the season ends,  
we all bid “farewell” to the majestic Catskills**



**And, there you have it my friends – “The Week in Review”**



*Jon Dwyer*

**Publisher**

**BDFC**