

A Short History and Other Musings on the Creamton Flyfishing Club

The Creamton Flyfishing Club was founded as the Creamton Fishing Club in 1939. The founding was led by three men. Garfield Thomas, a Carbondale, Pa. jeweler, Fuller Blickens, an undertaker of the same city and James Naizby of Waymart, Pa... Mr. Naizby at the time was the fireman for the Fell Brewing Co. in Simpson, Pa. These men were soon joined by others. The complete list of early members can be found in the Club archives. Names like Roswell McMullen Sr., who had interests in the timber and mining industries. His son Roswell Jr. was also an early member. Other founders included Lester Stanton, a lumberman, Dr. Raymond Wilson, a physician, Dr. Kenneth Wilson, an optometrist, and Charles Decker a Waymart business man. All of these men were from Waymart, Pa. Also included in the founders were Dr. H. R. Bell and Dr. Walter May of Carbondale. Many of the early founders seemed to have connections to the mining and lumber business. Early Board meetings of the club were held in the Board Room of the First National Bank of Carbondale. The club stayed in the 25-30 member range until after WWII when it then went up to the 35-40 member range. The members in those early days, were basically minnow and worm fisherman that were not adverse to the use of a fly now and then. Today, we maintain a membership of 45 and all are fly fishermen and women.

Circa 1940, the Club made arrangements with Henry Mead to lease property where the Club cabin now stands. At this time, a dam was constructed on the spring run in front of were the cabin now stands. The pool that was formed was to be used for the raising of trout. Unfortunately, a 100 year flood in 1942 destroyed the dam. The remnants of this dam can still be seen in front of the cabin.

About this same time, Dr. Raymond Wilson donated what is now the old section of our cabin (kitchen area) to the club. Previously this cabin had been his “hideaway” on Lake Idelwild in Susquehanna County. Lester Stanton, a founder and local lumberman, donated a “Low Boy” tractor trailer and bulldozer and a group of members moved the cabin to Sullivan Road (now Johnson creek Drive). They then laid railroad ties and track down the hill and slid the cabin to its present location. The ties that the cabin now sites on are those original ties. In those days, the area around the cabin was active pastureland and there was not a lane down to the cabin. You had to walk down from Sullivan Road, nee Johnson Creek Drive dodging cow droppings on the way. Down was easy, back up after late evening card games, could be a challenge.

The new section of the cabin was built in the early 1950's. At that time, and for years afterward, many a fine poker game was enjoyed in the new section. It has been a good number of years, since that room, has seen poker games like the past. It was about this time that the club hired its first Riverkeeper, Bill Shaffer. Bill was a local trapper, fur dealer, woodsman and an early investor in Xerox stock and became a very wealthy man while he worked for the club.

In the late 1970's and early 80's the club embarked on a series of land purchases and today we own 4 parcels of prime trout fishing water in the valley.

After a few false starts in the 1970's and 80's, the club became a "fly fishing only" club in 1993.

In the late 90's and early Twenty-First Century the club formed a master plan for river and corridor improvement. At this time it is an ongoing project with many projects completed with more to come. In 2002 the club received the first, of what is hoped will be many grants for corridor and trout habitat improvement.

In 2008 the club signed a lease with Chesapeake Gas for gas exploration on our property.