

## REFLECTIONS IN NATURE

Bill Bower

While attending the Green Career Day, at Mt Pisgah State Park, on September 27th, one of the stations was about fisheries science. The eighth grade students helped in shocking parts of the lake to find out what fish were living in the lake. While dragging a net through the water, an American eel was caught. This was quite a surprise for all in attendance. Since then the conversation has been on how the eel found its way into Stephen Foster Lake. Unless someone had put the eel in the lake, the eel made the long journey from the Sargasso Sea; up through the Chesapeake Bay, Susquehanna River, Sugar Creek and one of its tributaries and finally into the spillway of Stephen Foster Lake.

People have farmed and fished for eels for thousands of years; however, it wasn't until recently that we learned about the eel's life cycle. Eels are an important part of diets in Europe and Asia and they bring a high price on the Asian market.

The history of the American eel, in Pennsylvania, is quite interesting. Many years ago (1994), I interviewed two old river-men, who actually harvested eels from the Susquehanna River.

In the interview I learned that the father of Sid Cooley, of Towanda, had a disease of the blood known as Bright's disease. His doctor wanted him to eat all the fish and eel that he could. Mrs. Cooley sent Sid regularly to their neighbor's home to buy eel. The neighbor, who kept the eels alive in a spring house, put the eels in a burlap bag for Sid to take home. The neighbor always warned Sid not to take a peek because if the eels got out of the bag, it would be impossible to catch them. Sid remembered watching his father drive a nail through the eel's head to pin it to a board. The skin was ringed just behind the head, and using a pair of pliers, his dad grasped the skin and pulled it toward the tail. Sid often watched his mother fry the pieces of eel in a pan, and when they were done, she stood the pieces on end, allowing the fat to drain.

These two old river-men (both deceased) told me that eel racks were located at many places along the Susquehanna River, with one just below the river bridge at Towanda. While crossing the bridge when the river is low, look downstream and you will see a "V" shaped riff. This is supposedly the location of the Towanda eel racks.

The eel racks were made on natural "riffs" and the stones were placed so they formed a "V". Usually one side of the "V" was longer than the other side. At the apex of the "V", a wooden rack, which allowed the water to run through, was placed. The eels were trapped inside the rack. An area that was wide enough to allow boats to pass through was made, often close to one of the shore lines.

According to the two men, natural "riffs" were repaired after the flooding in the spring, and the eel racks were put back in place. According to Curley, slats were nailed on three to four foot high racks. Although the water ran through the slats the eels had to go up and over the top of the rack and into the rack. Eventually, the eels were in an area where they could not get free.

During the fall eel migration, eels were trapped by the wagon loads. Curley related that if the river was low enough, the horses would pull the wagons out into the river.

At the age of 82, Dean Shepard (now deceased), of Canton, told me that when he was a young farm boy he remembers that his dad liked eating eel. Dean helped his dad set a line with three hooks in the creek behind their house. Each morning the two checked the line and almost always found two eels. He also remembers skinning the eels by driving a spike through the eel's head into a log; while straddling the log his dad cut through the skin in back of the eel's head and, using a woolen cloth and a pair of pliers, he pulled the skin off.. Dean mentioned that the skin was so tough it could be used as a flail.

### TWILIGHT TIME

Here are the times for twilight for the coming week, localized for Canton's longitude:

Oct. 19, 6:56 am, 6:48 pm  
Oct. 20, 6:57 am, 6:46 pm  
Oct. 21, 6:58 am, 6:45 pm  
Oct. 22, 7:00 am, 6:44 pm  
Oct. 23, 7:01 am, 6:42 pm  
Oct. 24, 7:02 am, 6:41 pm  
Oct. 25, 7:03 am, 6:39 pm  
Oct. 26, 7:04 am, 6:38 pm

The American eel is one of the most abundant and least understood fish in many of our eastern rivers. Of all the fish known to mankind, none have puzzled scientists for so long a time as the freshwater eels of the rivers and lakes of Europe and America Aristotle (Fourth Century B.C.) stated that eels were born from earthworms, which in turn were produced from mud or damp earth. The early Greeks, who failed to find spawn or male reproductive glands within the eels, named Jupiter as the father, as all children of doubtful parentage were ascribed to this God. Pliny the Elder, a Roman naturalist stated that eels had neither masculine nor feminine sex.

He concluded that they rubbed themselves against rocks, and the pieces that scrapped from their bodies, came to life as little eels.

The eel is no longer found in great numbers in the Susquehanna River. In next week's article, I will write about what has happened to the eel and what is being done to restore the eel to its original habitat. If you have any knowledge about the eel racks on the river, please give me a call. 570-297-2943.



Picture above is Ed Kalinowski, Canton, the winner of the Leroy Sportsman's Association Redneck Blind Raffle. Thank you to Dave Decristo for donating the blind for the raffle.

### SUNRISE, SUNSET

Here are the times for sunrise and sunset for the coming week, localized for Canton's longitude:

Oct. 19, 7:24 am, 6:20 pm  
Oct. 20, 7:26 am, 6:18 pm  
Oct. 21, 7:27 am, 6:17 pm  
Oct. 22, 7:28 am, 6:15 pm  
Oct. 23, 7:29 am, 6:14 pm  
Oct. 24, 7:30 am, 6:12 pm  
Oct. 25, 7:31 am, 6:11 pm  
Oct. 26, 7:33 am, 6:10 pm

There will be 18 fewer minutes of daylight Oct. 26 than Oct. 19.

### MOON OVER CANTON

The times for moonrise and moonset for the coming week, localized for Canton's longitude:

Oct. 19, 7:01 am, 6:42 pm  
New Moon, 3:13 pm  
Oct. 20, 8:03 am, 7:13 pm  
Oct. 21, 9:03 am, 7:46 pm  
Oct. 22, 10:01 am, 8:21 pm  
Oct. 23, 10:57 am, 9:00 pm  
Oct. 24, 11:51 am, 9:43 pm  
Oct. 25, 12:41 pm, 10:30 pm  
Oct. 26, 1:27 pm, 11:21 pm

## Trojan Gridders Defeat Sayre

On Sept. 29, the Troy Trojans varsity football team scored early and often and picked up its first victory of 2017 with a 42-14 thrashing of Sayre at Alparon Park.

The game had a rousing start when Clark Jackson of Troy returned the opening kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown. Seldon Rogers booted the extra point and the Trojans led 7-0 with only 13 seconds lapsed.

Sayre lost a fumble on their first possession and the offense wasted little time in capitalizing Michael Borden carried the ball in from the 39 for the second touchdown of the game and after Rogers' extra point, it was 14-0 at the 9:47 mark.

The Trojan defense forced Sayre to punt on its next drive and the offense scored again, this time on a 30-yard run by Clark Jackson. Rogers' point made it 21-0 with 5:28 to play in the first period.

Sayre was again unable to move the ball and the Trojan defense forced a punt, and the offense mounted a 63-yard drive in 12 plays. Nate Martin scored on a one-yard carry and Rogers conversion put the score to 28-0 just 4 seconds into the second quarter.

Ja Wallace picked off a Sayre pass to thwart the next Sayre drive. Troy was forced to punt but after the Sayre offense took over, Wallace intercepted another pass and ran it back 35 yards to the one. Nate Martin drove the ball in on the next play and Seldon Rogers made it 35-0 with the PAT at 5:51.

The Trojans continued to play well in the second half. Troy punted but the ball made contact with a Sayre player and Wallace recovered for Troy on the Sayre four. Tyler Williams scored from there and after another Rogers PAT it was 42-0.

Sayre added two late touchdowns to make the final 42-14.

Clark Jackson and Ja Wallace combined on a couple of long pass plays in the first half, one for 24 yards and the other for 34. Wallace had a great game, with two interceptions, two recovered fumbles and two receptions.

Troy's defense limited Sayre to 24 yards on the ground and 92 through the air, and that included a 73-yard touchdown pass play in the final moments of the game.

### CAEA vs. TAEA

On October 27 at 7 PM on the Miller A. Moyer Football Field, not only will there be a competition between the Canton and Troy Varsity Football players, but also there will be a bake sale competition between the Canton Area Education Association and the Troy Area Education Association.

The bake sale will consist of numerous delicious treats, such as brownies and cookies, and they will be sold at an adequate price.

Proceeds will be given to community charities. Each union will be set up in the parking lot area. The winner is decided by the amount of money made, and this will be announced during each quarter when a little shoe will be given to the winning team.

Please come out and support our athletes as well as the bake sale. Everyone deserves a treat at this time of year!

## Trojans Edge Wyalusing, 33-30

The Troy Trojans earned their second consecutive victory with a 33-30 Homecoming Game win over Wyalusing on October 6.

Troy drew first blood on a 21-yard run by Clark Jackson at 6:36 in the first period. Seldon Rogers kicked the extra point and Troy led 7-0.

Wyalusing matched that score and tied things up at 1:58 in the first but Troy answered with a score by the defense when Tyler Williams picked off a Rams pass and ran it back 20 yards for a touchdown, capped by a Seldon Rogers kick to make it 14-7 with 8:39 left in the half.

Wyalusing responded with a five-play drive for a score, and a two-point conversion gave the Rams the slightest of edges, 15-14, which they maintained at the half.

Wyalusing built the lead to 22-14 on a seven-play drive to open the second half, but the Trojans bounced right back with a quick score, with the points coming on a 49-yard run by Clark Jackson. The two-point try was no good and Wyalusing led 22-20.

After stopping the next Rams possession by forcing a punt, the Trojans regained the lead on a 13 play drive that covered 58 yards, Clark Jackson carried the ball over from the three for the score. A two-point try failed by Troy led 26-22.

Nate Martin picked off a Rams pass and carried it back 40 yards for six points, Seldon Rogers booted the PAT to make it 33-22 with 8:22 remaining.

The Rams put the ball over with under two minutes to play and was successful on a two-point conversion to make the score 33-30. They tried an onside kick by Troy's Ja Wallace recovered and Troy ran out the clock.

Clark Jackson gained 134 yards rushing on 17 carries.

### Troy Boys

#### Take Towanda

The Troy boys soccer team defeated Towanda 4 to 1 on October 11.

Nat Graybill scored three of Troy's goals and had one assist. Will Dibble had a goal.

Alex Johnson and Kris Howland each had an assist.

Troy keeper Josh Nowacoski had nine saves.

Troy led in shots 30 to 7 and led in corner kicks, 14 to 3.

### Valley Bridge Club

#### Announces Winners

Dan Gerhart of Rome Township PA was the winner at the Friday night bridge game held on October 6 in Athens. Frank Innes of Towanda finished in second place. In third place was Gerry Keenan of Rome Township.

Marc Alpert of Queen Esther Estates was the winner of the Valley Bridge Club's Tuesday afternoon bridge game held on October 10 in Athens Township. Tied for third place were Sherry Spencer of Athens, Joan Gustin of Towanda, and John Mras of Binghamton.

The Valley Bridge Club, located between Elmira, Lockhart, and Westbrook Streets in Athens Township, is offering free beginners' bridge lessons on Tuesday afternoons. Call Jeffrey Dann at 570-888-6311 or e-mail to ValleyBridgeClub@yahoo.com for details.

## OUTDOORS WITH JIM COLLINS



### Black Bear

#### Sightings – Part II

It has been my good fortune to see many black bears while hunting, hiking and fishing. It is always a joy that I thank God for giving to me. It is also quite true that while we have an insurance agency for our profession is mostly an inside type, we still get outdoors almost every day. It also helps greatly that our insurance agency is in our home which is quite close to several areas of woods including Armenia Mountain.

I was trout fishing one day on Larry's Creek, just above Salladasburg in Lycoming County. I always fish slowly; trout are very aware of sounds and sights. A careless step or showing yourself ends any chance to catch the fish. Which is precisely why I always fish upstream on small native trout streams?

I rounded a turn in the stream, I heard a series of sharp sounds. I was a large male black bear sitting on his rump and attacking a rotten tree stump searching for insects. Lots of folks are unaware that even very large bears such as the Alaskan Brown Bear, or the Grizzly will overturn rocks and earth in search of small edible items. They often go to the sea coast if one is available to dig for clams at low tide.

This bear was unaware of my presence. Black bears have poor eyesight; they actually have eyes as small as a human newborn child. I watched intently for perhaps five minutes. The bear was able to find some food in that stump. Suddenly he wolfed and ran uphill in the forest simply knocking over the smaller trees. There is no doubt that what wind

### Lady Trojans

#### Crush Wyalusing

The Tory girls soccer team clobbered Wyalusing 10 to 1 on September 28.

The McClellan sisters accounted for seven goals. Riley McClellan scored four and Nicole McClellan scored three. Riley had three assists.

Morgan Graybill scored twice and had an assist and Joelle Urban had one goal and an assist.

Other Lady Trojans with assists were Brianna Rathbun, Marissa Bulkley, and Emma Shedden.

### No. Penn/Liberty

#### Tops Canton

The Lady Warriors volleyball team was swept in straight sets by North Penn/Liberty on September 28. Scores were 25-3, 25-17, 25-17.

Statistical leaders for Canton: Points: Esther Martin, 5; Elle Binford, 4; Hailey Wesneski, 3; Emily Ferguson, 2;

Aces: Esther Martin, 2; Emily Ferguson, 2;

Digs: Esther Martin, 8; Jillian Shay, 8; Hailey Wesneski, 4; Emily Ferguson, 4; Caitlin Pepper, 4;

Blocks: Hailey Wesneski, 1; Kills: Sam Proseus, 4; Emily Ferguson, 2;

Assists: Caitlin Pepper, 8.

there was suddenly shifted. It is quite a sight to observe a fully grown black bear simply flatten small trees. I took that timeout from fishing to memorize what had just happened because to date it has never occurred since. The first day of buck season is on the Monday following Thanksgiving. In those days in the 1980's and up just a few years ago, the black bear season was on the Monday of Thanksgiving week. The year was 1984.

As I sat quietly on my favorite watch that first deer hunting day, an opossum crawled around in the rock crevice below me. I confirmed it later in the day by seeing its scat. Just minutes later a large male black bear came out of the wooded valley below me and stopped just maybe 40 yards from my stand. I wondered silently, "were were you last Monday at this time?" There is no answer of course but just a few minutes after the bear departed, a 7 point buck came across the flat behind me and stopped just yards away from me, offering an easy one shot kill. I will never forget those three sightings. It was a great day to be afield.

Jim Collins is an outdoor writer for this newspaper. To contact him, email jimcollinsinsurance@frontiernet.net; or write to him at Outdoors With Jim Collins, 87 Windfall Road, Alba, PA 16910.

### Athens Girls

#### Defeat Troy

The Lady Trojans soccer team lost at Athens 4-1 on October 12.

The Lady Trojans tailed at the half 1-0, and tied the game on a goal by Nicole McClellan in the second half but Athens ran off three goals in a row to take the win.

Athens led in shots 34 to 6. Athens led in corner kicks 5 to 3.

Troy keeper Brianna Rathbun had 30 saves.

### No. Penn/Liberty

#### Sweeps Troy

The North Penn/Liberty volleyball team defeated Troy in straight sets on October 5 by scores of 25-8, 25-13, 25-11.

Statistical leaders for Troy: Points - Caitlin DeLosa, 2; Autumn Gilbert, 2; Cassie Shedden, 2; Savannah Sakosky, 2; Emilie Cole, 1;

Aces - Caitlin DeLosa, 1; Kills - Emilie Cole, 5; Caitlin DeLosa, 4; Cassie Shedden, 4; Mallori Morse, 2; Autumn Gilbert, 1; Savannah Sakosky, 1;

Digs - Emilie Cole, 6; Mallori Morse, 5; Caitlin DeLosa, 3; Autumn Gilbert, 2; Cassie Shedden, 2;

Assists - Cassie Shedden, 6; Mallori Morse, 3; Blocks - Emilie Cole, 1;

Liberty won the JV match by scores of 25-15, 25-13.

Morgan Millard led Troy's JVs with six points.

### ATHLETIC ADMISSIONS

In September the Canton Area School District received gate receipts of \$5,448.55.

### DISCOUNT CARDS

In September, the Canton Area School District received \$749 in proceeds from the sale of Chamber of Commerce Discount Cards.



CANTON WARRIOR

# FOOTBALL BONFIRE!

OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 P.M.  
AT THE FIREMANS  
BUILDING (BINGO HALL)

WE'LL HAVE PIZZA, CHIPS, BAKED GOODS,  
BEVERAGES—BRING YOUR APPETITE AND YOUR  
WARRIOR PRIDE!

OPEN TO ALL CANTON WARRIOR FOOTBALL FANS  
AND SUPPORTERS! (PUBLIC) WITH NO ADMISSION