

A Great Time For Some Great Guys

HomeWaters Club Again Hosts Project Healing Waters

The Veterans arrived Wednesday evening eager to wet a line and enjoy the peacefulness of the Little Juniata River. Opting to fish first and eat dinner later, a few fish were caught before member Dave Smith treated the guys to dinner at the Spruce Creek Tavern. The fire pit was the central gathering point for the remainder of the evening, as stories were shared by all. I don't believe many slept that first night, as they were in for breakfast a half hour before it was slated to be ready at 6am!

Thursday morning, the guides arrived at 6:30 and were met with a very war-torn, but optimistic and eager group of Wounded Warriors. Once organized, they pulled out one-by-one and drove to their sections of Spruce Creek. It was a cool morning with temperatures in the low 60's, and I figured some good fish would be in the net early on. My assumption was correct, and digital cameras and big stories were the center of attention come lunch time.

The Veterans, guides, and a couple of generous donors who wanted to share the experience, all enjoyed a hearty lunch generously prepared and donated by Joe and Judy McMullen. After some photos of the Vets



Sgt. Lloyd Grubb with another stout Spruce Creek brown.

with their guides, all scrambled back to different sections to salvage the afternoon before things got too warm. Before the evening dinner, expert PHWFF casting instructor Pat Damico held a little casting demo and gave individual instruction to a couple guys who were new to the fly rod.



Guide Bob Bizak looks on as wounded warrior Mike Maschi floats a fly on Lower Franklinville.

Dinner was served as an outdoor picnic behind the Stone House, and was donated and organized by Dave McMullen, Bill Lang, and some friends of Bill. Over 40 folks involved with the event were in attendance, and everyone ate to a full stomach. Shortly after dinner, Donny Beaver presented to PHWFF representative Doug Dear, donations from the Club and individual club members amounting to just over \$24,000. A very nice contribution to an organization dedicated to helping those who have dedicated themselves to protecting our freedoms here in the United States.



Spc. Mike Maschi poses with a Spruce rainbow.



Ltc. Brian Madigan poses for the guide's camera.

After some late evening fishing with some fish being caught on the Little Juniata River, another night was spent around the camp fire with the addition of Matt McMullen's guitar and many stories. Matt McMullen (Dave's son), who has fought in Iraq, spent a lot of time volunteering and enjoying the camaraderie of these wounded warriors. He delayed his return to college and wanted to spend time with his comrades who have all endured some of the same stresses.

Friday morning the guys were again early for breakfast and the cool morning was very kind to the Vets while they fished until lunch time. By the second lunch, all the Vets had the best fishing they had ever experienced! I know none of them wanted to leave, but their strong military commitments do get in the way of the important things in life. Hopefully they'll all get another chance to get on the water soon and maybe come back next year. I do know at least one of the vets who never fly fished before is now hooked for life.

We here at the Club eagerly look forward to hosting another group next year.

—Erik Fuoss

Event Attendees

Spc. Mike Maschi
 Cpt. Thomas Garner
 Ltc. Brian Madigan
 Sgt. Lloyd Grubb,
 Cpl. Erik Goodge
 Ssg. (ret.) Drew Hill

Event Donors

Member Matching Donors: Jim & Jean Macaleer

Other Member Donors: Peggy Alexander, Art Barron, J. Martin Benchoff, Jeff & Sandy Brausch, Robert Burke, Lee Chertavian, Davis Clapp, Mark Comora, Robert Cosgriff, Randy Dean, Michael Franek, Dan Gandy, Peter Hearn, William Hudspeth, Michael Jones, Lori Lasher, Jeff Leininger, John & Marnie McKnight, Bob & Sally Roth, David & Patty Smith, Blair Trogner and William Weidlein.

In excess of \$24,000 was raised.



Guide Brad Frankhouser spots Korean vet Vince Lasorella, a guest of member Dave Smith.