

February 2010 TIC Program Update

Hi Folks,

Although I gave a brief update on our TIC Program at our February meeting, I'd like to take this opportunity to expand on that update, and to thank each and every one of you who have helped out with our TIC-related activities.

We currently have 21 schools participating in our TIC Programs, and next year we will be adding several more. Our "role", with regards to our TIC schools, includes helping out (upon request) with the set-up and/or maintenance/repair of their tank-related equipment, delivering the trout eggs (normally done in early-to-mid October), providing special programs upon request (e.g. "onion sack program", fly tying demonstrations, introduction to fly fishing, discussions on fishing ethics, etc.), and helping out (upon request) with fish releases (normally done in April and May).

Onion Sack Programs: For those of you who are not acquainted with the "onion sack program", it involves submerging weighted-down (or staked-down) onion sacks filled with hardwood leaves in one or more of the local streams. Various invertebrates (e.g. scuds, mayfly and/or stonefly larvae, aquatic worms, etc.) will take up residence in these onion sacks. After a minimum of two-three weeks, they are ready for "use". The day before, or the day of, giving a program, a sufficient number of onion sacks (normally 3-4 per class) are pulled by the TU member who is helping out with the program. The onion sacks are placed in a 5-gallon bucket along with enough water to keep them covered. They are then taken to the applicable school on the day of the program. In addition to delivering the sacks to the school, we also assist the teacher with the actual presentation of the program. This involves placing the contents of the onion sacks into trays and helping the students find and identify the various invertebrates that are in the leafy detritus. The requests for "onion sack programs" (aka "invertebrate studies") have already started to come in. First choice on providing these programs will go to the folks who gave the program to the applicable school last year. If they are unable to provide the program, a request for volunteers will be sent to all of our members via email. If you are considering volunteering but are concerned that, like me, you are not "invertebrate savvy", I have several illustrated easy-to-follow keys for indentifying the most common types of invertebrates that are found during these onion sack programs.

Fish Releases: Requests for assistance with fish releases have also started to come in. Here again, first choice on helping out will go to the folks who delivered the eggs to the applicable school(s) last fall. If they are unable to meet the need, a request for volunteers will be sent to all of our members via email.

Upcoming Special TIC Field Day: We have been asked, by Allamuchy Township's fourth grade TIC class teacher, to provide volunteers for a special TIC Field Day Program that will be held on Thursday, May 27, with a rain date of Friday May 28. The Field Day will be held at the Mountain Villa just off of Route 517 (used to be the Villa Madonna) outside of Hackettstown. There will be approximately 45 students participating in the Field Day. As currently envisioned, our "role" will involve providing enough volunteers to oversee and staff three "stations"; **invertebrate studies** (Brian Cowden has already volunteered to oversee this station), **introduction to fly fishing**, and **introduction to fly tying**. We need two volunteers to develop the specifics for, and to oversee, the latter two stations (i.e. **introduction to fly fishing**, and **introduction to fly tying**). In addition, we need several volunteers to help out with each station. Due to the fact that the Field Day will be held on a Thursday with a rain date of Friday, I realize that those of you who work full time may not be able to volunteer, but I am asking that any of you who can volunteer to please send me an email as soon as possible so that we can start to build our "volunteer listing". If you can oversee one of the aforementioned stations, please include that information in your email.

THANKS AGAIN!

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NNJ (Fred S. Burroughs) Chapter T/U