



Tuesday, March 14th, 3:00pm - 9:00pm

Wednesday, March 15th, 12:00pm - 9:00pm

Thursday, March 16th, 3:00pm - 9:00pm

Friday, March 17th, 3:00pm - 9:00pm

Saturday, March 18th, 10:00am - 9:00pm

Sunday, March 19th, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Guest speaker, Mr. Andy Burt, ODNR, gave a presentation on the history and current status of the Ohio native brook trout project. A setback for the project occurred when approximately halfway through the project the brood stock at the Castalia Fish Hatchery developed an illness and the entire brood stock had to be destroyed. The funding for the project expires in FY 2007 and there are no plans by the ODNR to continue the native brook trout program or resume a hatchery breeding program.

However, the program has had some successes. At the onset of the project, ODNR's goal was to have six streams with sustainable populations of native brook trout by the end of the project (2007). There are currently four streams where the survey evidence indicates sustainable populations (absent some catastrophic event) exist, and two more streams that are marginally producing but the jury is still out. Activities through the end of the project include the completion of a study that will establish criteria to assist in the classification of habitat and suitability criteria for additional trout plantings. The ODNR will continue stream fish surveys to evaluate the overall success of the program (only through 2007).

Mr. Burt also provided an overview of ODNR's trout stocking program for the 2005 year. He also provided information on a group of high school girls in Geauga County who have been garnering many acclamations and awards for their Save our Streams (SOS) project. ODNR is in the process of working with them and the Cleveland Zoo to improve the Ohio Native Brook Trout exhibit at the Zoo. An activity planned for April may be an opportunity for our Chapter to participate. More details to follow.

The next member meeting is tentatively scheduled for late January or the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in February.