

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited

May 2007

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Stamp

Label

President's Report

We are experiencing a rare phenomenon in Western New York-a Real Spring. I hope many of you have been out fishing the local streams. I haven't found the hatches plentiful, as yet, but that just makes it more of a challenge to catch a trout.

While walking the streams, it's easy to see and appreciate the results of our chapter's stream projects over many years. These efforts continue every year, in one form or another, requiring your support. Whether you physically assist on work parties and clean-ups, or support a fund raiser, from banquet to raffle, buy a newsletter ad, or just pay your membership dues, you are doing your part to support TU's mission to conserve protect and restore our coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

I need your help regarding meeting entertainment. It would be ideal to have a committee (that often means one person) to set up meeting programs. To have a calendar of upcoming events printed in the newsletter would be helpful in boosting attendance. At the very least, I want to hear from all of you as to what you would like to see and hear at the meetings. Or, share your own talents with other TU members! The topic need not be about "fish". Please step forward with your ideas.

Jim Markham Senior Biologist from Region 9 DEC will be our speaker at the JUNE 26th meeting, NOT the May meeting.

The May 29th meeting's entertainment will be a surprise...

We will continue to have our 50/50 raffle at meetings. In lieu of the general raffle, everyone who attends will get a free ticket for a chance at a prize.

I want to thank **Don Klug** for being Council Delegate, and for his valuable volunteer hours spent serving WNYTU. His new role as Dad has caused him to adjust his priorities, but we hope to see him back.

There is now one opening for a Council Delegate, who would attend 3 meetings a year across the state. If you are that person, see me for details.

If anyone has trouble viewing our website, please inform **Ric Toczek**--email him at webmaster@www.wnytroutunlimited.org.

Come early at the next meeting to tie flies, or bring a few to donate for fundraising!

Dee Maciejewski, President

Whispering Pines Fish Farm

POND STOCKING

Trout, Bass, Perch, Minnows

Grass Carp, Koi, Crayfish

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Anglers Choice Taxidermy

World Class Fish Taxidermy

By Artist/Taxidermist **Peter T. Di Rado**

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716-537-9753

WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, May 29, 2007, 7:30 pm at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **May meeting entertainment is a surprise!**
Fly Tying will start at 6PM when we will be tying bead head pheasant tails. Please bring brown thread.

New Website for Region 9

Region 9 Fisheries has their own web page on the DEC website now with a bunch of info for the Region's fishing opportunities, trout and otherwise. To get there either type in: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/reg9fish or at www.dec.state.ny.us/ website type in "Region 9 fisheries" in the search section and click on "Fishing in Western NY".

Fishing Partner Connection

We are starting a new column for those looking for a fishing partner: **Fishing Buddy Wanted**. If you'd like to share your day on the water with someone, e-mail Editor **Vince Tobia @ vtobia@aol.com**. He will put your contact info in the newsletter. To get in touch with your partner, contact them directly. Include your name, telephone #, and e-mail address.

Bill Swartz 716-741-2563

flytyer72001@yahoo.com

Larry Jakubowski 716-684-9755

jake14086@yahoo.com

Fly Tying

At the May meeting-we'll be tying bead head pheasant tails. Bring brown thread.

Len Bigaj.

Summer Tree-trimming Project

This summer we will conduct a trimming project on the no-kill section of the **Wiscoy**. I anticipate this taking two or more days. We will schedule around our other projects, so we must wait until dates are set for them to schedule. I would like to know whether people would like two days in a row (no need to come both days) or on separate weekends.

We also may be participating in a project to anchor some large trees on **Spooner Brook**. We will consult with DEC and the landowner by the end of May to see whether this is practical and when it might be done.

There is a minimal amount of repair necessary at our 2005 and 2000 projects at the Pike Fairgrounds.

We also were scheduled to help the DEC and Wyoming County SWCD with a project on the **Oatka**, but this spring's floods wiped out the site and new plans must be designed.

If you have any questions feel free to call me (**Chuck Godfrey**) 675-0057 or email me @ steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net. If you don't receive email notices from me about projects, highway cleanups, etc., I

don't have your email address. Contact me by email if you wish to get on the list. If you don't have email, call me and I will put you on my phone list. Thanks—**Chuck Godfrey**

Paul Maciejewski Honored for Commitment to TU

Life member **Paul Maciejewski** was again recognized for his leadership in conservation efforts in Trout Unlimited. In April, he was inducted into The **New York State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame**, joining a select group of men and women who have made significant achievements in preserving our natural resources and outdoor heritage. The NYSHOF is currently located in Gander Mountain, in Utica, New York. **Congratulations Paul!**

Spring Banquet News

I was asked to chair the banquet again. I believe that **Jason Czora** will be Co-Chair. It will be held on **March 15th 2008 at Ripa's Restaurant**, so please keep the date open. More info to follow. **Len Bigaj**

Lower Great Lakes Fishery Festival

We are set to participate in the **2007 Fish and Wildlife Festival, on June 2, 2007** at Hyde Park in Niagara Falls. Setup is from 8 to 10am, and the Festival is from 11am to 5pm. If you are interested in manning our booth let me know. **Len Bigaj**

Region 9 Angler Diary Program

The DEC Region 9 Fisheries Office will be running an angler diary program for Clear Creek (Arcade), Lime Lake Outlet, McKinstry Creek and Hosmer Brook during 2007 and is currently looking for anglers to keep diaries. If you fish any of the listed waters (even once) and would like to keep a diary for DEC please call the DEC Fisheries Office at (716) 372-0645 or e-mail at **fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us**. The program will run March 1st through November 30th. This program duplicates one run in 2000 and will be used in conjunction with a late-summer electro-fishing survey to evaluate the fishery's overall quality. In 2000, 101 anglers signed up for the program.

A Review of "The Mind of the Trout" and "Understanding Trout Behavior"

Part Two By **Russell Shefrin**

In a previous article, I reviewed "The Mind of the Trout". Here, I would like to discuss "Understanding Trout Behavior" by John Goddard and Brian Clarke (The Lyons Press, 2001). I was drawn to these two books, because their titles relate to my interests in fly fishing for trout and in trying to understand the mind and behavior. The second book turns out, though, to be quite different from the first one. In many ways, this volume could be considered the more "practical" of the two for the angler.

To begin with, I should point out that "Understanding Trout Behavior" consists of selections abstracted from an earlier book by the same authors, namely, "The Trout and the Fly: A New Approach", published in 1980. According to the preface of "Understanding", these sections were chosen by Lefty Kreh for inclusion in his Little Library of Fly Fishing. I have never seen the original book, so I cannot comment on it.

"Understanding Trout Behavior" includes three major sections: One is devoted to how to find trout and to interpret various rise forms. The second focuses on the visual world of the trout and its implications for fly-fishing. The third section, the Appendix, consists of instructions on how to make flies which, the authors contend, take advantage of the insights developed in the book. There is a lot of detailed information here. I found it helpful to read the book a couple of times as well as to make an outline using the sub-chapter headings. One of the truly attractive features of this book is the photography. Not only are the pictures colorful, but several capture fleeting moments which I have not seen documented in quite this way.

It appears that many of the authors' conclusions are based on extensive study of the visual environment of the trout, using underwater photography. The results are worth a read. However, in keeping with the scientific spirit

advocated in “The Mind of the Trout” (see Part One), I wonder if these findings have been independently confirmed by other researchers. I just do not know.

Incidentally, as a fly fisherman, I was intrigued by some thoughts not included in the above main sections, but in the Prologue. Here, the authors speculate on the reasons we are interested in using the artificial fly, as opposed to other lures. Check it out for yourself; but it certainly made sense to me.

Overall, I found this to be a useful book. Its version of reading the water is particularly well written and clear. Occasionally, it uses terminology which is unfamiliar to me but may be understandable to those from the United Kingdom. (The authors are British.) This is a very minor shortcoming and does not detract from the overall book. The section on the visual world of the trout includes a discussion of Snell’s Window (a concept also discussed, though briefly, in “The Mind of the Trout”) and “the mirror” (also mentioned briefly in the other volume). Snell’s Window refers to the area above the surface which is clearly visible to the fish, while “the mirror” is what the fish sees by looking at the undersurface of the water outside of Snell’s Window. One very practical implication of these optical phenomena is that the fish’s field of view above the surface decreases with decreasing depth. Perhaps this is one reason trout are often so skittish in shallow water. In any event, as we approach a stream, it would be a good idea to be aware that we may be being watched, and that the nature of the trout’s visual system and the optical effects of water give the fish definite advantages. This matter has numerous practical implications, which are examined in the book.

I would recommend both “The Mind of the Trout” and “Understanding Trout Behavior” to serious fly anglers, especially to those with a scientific inclination. Undoubtedly, these books are not “the last word” on their respective subjects; and they do demand close attention. I am not sure that I agree with every interpretation presented in the books, and (due to my limited fly tying skills) I did not attempt to make the flies described in the second book. However, both works stimulated my thinking and provided me with a new way of looking at trout and their world. I am glad I read them.

Trout Talk Advertising Rates

	<u>1 issue</u>	<u>9 issues and website (25% discount)</u>
full page	\$160	\$600
half page	\$80	\$300
1/4 page	\$40	\$150
1/8 page	\$20	\$75

Calendar for Upcoming Fishing Related Youth Activities in Erie County:

June 2: Kids Fishing Derby at East Aurora Fish & Game, 10 am – 12 noon, Free Lunch w/Sahlens hotdogs, free rod/reel tackle prizes. Call Dave Barus, 652-2256.

June 9: Tifft Farm Kid’s Day Fishing Clinic w/Erie County Federation and NYS-DEC, 10 a.m. – noon, registration starts at 9 a.m., Free Lunch w/Sahlens hotdogs. Call Mike Wilkinson, 851-7010.

June 23: Chestnut Ridge Park Lake Kid’s Day Fishing Clinic w/Erie County Federation and NYS-DEC, 10 a.m. – noon, registration starts at 9 a.m., Free Lunch w/Sahlens hotdogs. Call Mike Wilkinson, 851-7010.

July 28: Tifft Farm Kid’s Day Fishing Clinic w/Southtowns Walleye Association, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Free Lunch w/Sahlens hotdogs.

2007 WNYTU Fundraiser

Help out our local chapter raise \$ for local stream projects

Gift Certificate Prizes

Oak Orchard Fly Shop \$150
Buffalo Outfitters Fly Shop \$150
Orvis Corporate Store \$150
Gander Mountain \$100
Dick's Sporting Goods \$100

Drawing to be held on October 30, 2007 at the WNYTU general meeting

Winners will have their choice of gift certificates

Tickets are \$5 each, or three for \$10

Only 600 tickets will be sold.

Contact Len Bigaj to buy some tics.

Send donation to Len Bigaj, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna NY 14218 or call 826-4178