

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org)

February 2008

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Spring Banquet-**Jason Czora** (839-1975) **Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

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(This is an expanded version of the printed Newsletter)

President's Report

At our last meeting, we enjoyed hearing Joe Evans, Scott Cornett, and Jim Zanett of the DEC. They are always informative and interesting. The turnout was double our usual attendance. It would be great if we could coax more members to attend all meetings.

As you should know, our annual Banquet (March 15) is the biggest fund raiser of the year. We utilize these funds to support the work that is done on local streams. Whether you fish or not, as a Trout Unlimited member, your first concern is for clean water and protection of trout and salmon habitat. Your support of your Banquet is the most important thing you can do, on a local level, to insure that the cold water fisheries assets we enjoy right here are protected. If you are unable to attend, please purchase a Grand Prize ticket, donate a raffle item, or even donate the price of a ticket! We would rather have you enjoy the dinner and festivities with a group of family and friends, however. There will be many prizes that will please those who either do not fish or have all the fishing gear that they will need. (OK, it's never enough!)

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting Tuesday, **February 26, 2008, 7:30 pm** at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Fly Tying will start at 6pm.** Please bring black thread, because we will be tying the Royal Coachman.

The meeting will feature **Meagan Boice Green**, of DEC, who will enlighten us on “**Buffalo’s Backyard Wilderness: Reinstein Woods and Nature Preserve and Environmental Education Center**”. Please join us and bring a family member or a friend. (Ed. Note: See the August, 2007, issue of the “New York State Conservationist” or check out <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/39315.html>.)

Announcements

- **Shows** – (by Len Bigaj). The W.N.Y. Sport Travel Expo will run March 6 – 9, 2008, at the Hamburg Fair Grounds Agra Center. Times are: the 6th and 7th from 12:00 to 9:00pm, the 8th from 10:00am to 8:00pm, and the 9th from 10:00am to 5pm. We will be tying with the children on Sunday, March 9th, from 12:00 to 4:00pm. Please let me know if you will be able to help out. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meetings. Thank you in advance, Len.
- **Banquet**– (by Len Bigaj). I have the banquet tickets. They are available at the three fly shops, at the T.U. meetings, or by calling, writing, or e-mailing me at : Len Bigaj, 58 Balen Dr., Lackawanna, NY 14218 (716-826-4178; LBIGAJ001@roadrunner.com).
We want to extend a special “Thank You” to Lee Lulek, of Century Printing and Graphics, for donating the printing of the Banquet and Grand Prize tickets.
Please try to attend this important function. It will take place at Ripa's restaurant on March 15th 2008. (Please see last page for details.) We need your help to make this a success. If you cannot attend but would like to support T.U., I have Grand Prize raffle tickets for a Thomas and Thomas 9ft.-5wt. 4pc. fly rod and a Bauer 5wt. large arbor fly reel, line and backing. The winner need not be present for the drawing, which will be held at the banquet. You can obtain tickets by sending your check to the above address, and I will send you your receipt. Tickets are \$10.00 each, or 3 for \$20.00. Thank You for your continued support. Len Bigaj W.N.Y. T.U.
- **A Reminder:** Why you should attend TU meetings, buy 50-50 tickets, go to the banquet, etc.: There are plenty of reasons to support the local TU chapter, but here is one you may not know about. The fact is that, by and large, the activities of the local chapter are not financed by the national organization. The costs of the newsletter, our portion of most area stream and habitat restoration projects, etc., are funded almost entirely by the money raised at the meetings, the banquet, and the sale of flies at the county fair. Your dues go to the national organization, which only provides money to the local group under special circumstances. Without the money raised here, the local organization may not be able to exist.
- **Fishing Partner Connection.** For those of you who are seeking a partner with whom to fish, we will be running this announcement on a regular basis. If you would like to share your day on the water with someone, e-mail Editor Russell Shefrin at AdkRuss@roadrunner.com; and your contact information (name, telephone number, e-mail address) will be included in the newsletter. To get in touch with your partner, contact him or her directly. Currently interested: **Bill Swartz** (716-741-2563, flytyer72001@yahoo.com). **Larry Jakubowski** (716-684-9755, jake14086@yahoo.com). **Tom Kielb** (716-895-3760).

- **Awards.** If you know of someone whom you would like to see recognized for his or her service to WNYTU, consider nominating that person for an award which would be presented at this year's banquet. To learn about the categories, and to make a nomination, contact **Dave Tooke** at 688-7492 or flytier@prodigy.net.
- **Stream Planting.** (by Chuck Godfrey) We have ordered a lot of bare root seedlings, willows and some riparian corridor plants, for planting on the Wiscoy (no-kill section) and for Oatka Creek just south of Warsaw. The Oatka section will be planted in conjunction with a massive stream bank protection effort initiated by the Wyoming County SWCD last summer and fall, and should help not only to stabilize the bank in that area but also to add shade to the creek in an area that has potential for increased populations of wild trout. The headwaters and upstream sections of Oatka maintain healthy populations of wild trout. We expect the trees to come in late in April, for planting then and in early May.

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Articles

Editor's Note by Russ Shefrin

The January, 2008, chapter meeting of WNY TU included the annual presentation by DEC staff. I would like to summarize a few of the points which were made. (As usual, a great deal of valuable information was shared at the meeting, both during the formal lecture and during the discussion afterwards. What follows is only a small sample. All the more reason for chapter members to attend these meetings.)

A report was presented on 2007 research projects involving four nine-inch limit streams, namely Clear Creek (Arcade area), Hosmer Brook, Lime Lake Outlet, and McKinstry Creek . Procedures included angler diaries, electrofishing, and a temperature study. For all four streams combined, the angler diaries recorded a total of 161 brown trout caught (98% released) and 877 rainbow trout caught (98% released). The catch rates, recorded in the angler diaries, on all four streams reach or exceed the state wide goal of one trout per hour. (It was explained that angler diary data tend to reflect the efforts of more skilled fishers. These results may not be typical of the “average guy (or gal)”.

Electrofishing results for brown trout ranged from 294 per mile in McKinstry Creek to 617 per mile in Clear Creek. Rainbow trout numbers varied from 295 per mile (Hosmer Brook) to 1182 per mile in Clear Creek.

The temperature study revealed one factor in the relatively high productivity of Clear Creek. It turns out that this stream’s temperature parameters are quite favorable to trout. Even though the air temperature during the summer of 2007 reached well into the nineties on a (thankfully) few occasions, day time highs in the water reached only the low seventies. Moreover, the water temperature recovered well at night. A marginal trout stream will often not cool off as much as Clear Creek does after a hot day.

The DEC presentation also included a description of 2007 habitat work on McKinstry Creek. This project included 2500 feet of stream improvement by the Department of Transportation as mitigation for the first section of Route 219. The work involved bank stabilization and pool creation. Apparently, one of the problems with McKinstry Creek is that the bed elevation had decreased so much that the stream was less likely to overflow its banks during high water events. Naturally occurring overflows of this nature, we learned, can actually be beneficial to stream habitat, because they allow the energy of rushing water to be dissipated in the flood plain. Otherwise, the flood waters spend their energy eroding banks, etc.

Finally, DEC reported on a brook trout project in Allegany State Park. This work, planned to begin in the summer of 2008, is intended to create pools on McIntosh Creek. Though brook trout are present in the Park, streams there tend to lack pools during low flow periods. It is hoped that, by dropping and anchoring trees in selected areas, the resulting pools, which provide refuge for trout, will be able to endure the low water periods. This project involves a number of groups and will likely provide some volunteer opportunities for WNY TU members.

Our thanks go to Scott Cornett for his fine presentation and to James Zanett and Joseph Evans for their valuable contribution.

A Few Extra Goodies:

- Chuck Godfrey has forwarded to me some photographs of the Wiscoy restoration project. They accompany this newsletter and are to be opened with Adobe Reader. (It is a rather large file but worth a look.)
- Vince Tobia contributed a link for some interesting tips on fly fishing gear. It is http://midcurrent.com/articles/tips/tips_gear.aspx.
- Thanks, guys.

**WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED
ANNUAL FUND RAISING BANQUET**

SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2008

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 - 7:00 PM FAMILY STYLE DINNER

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FOR TICKET INFO CONTACT:

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LACKAWANNA, NY 14218
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JASON CZORA
81 SARGENT DRIVE
SNYDER, NY 14226
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EASTERN HILLS MALL***