

TROUT TALK

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

January 2008

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Stamp

Label

This month, the electronic Newsletter is an expanded version of the print edition.

President's Report

Happy New Year to all. I hope it will be a year of good health and contentment. Let's all continue to do our part to promote Trout Unlimited and the positive conservation values for the coldwater fishery that it represents.

I want to thank Vince Tobia for serving us well as Newsletter Editor. Volunteering time and talent is something we should all appreciate. He will remain a Board member, helping TU in other ways. Our new Editor is Russ Shefrin. We are fortunate to have yet another enthusiastic volunteer step forward and fill a position that is paramount in keeping communication flowing to our members.

I would like to see higher attendance at our meetings. One way is to be able to have a calendar of programs for upcoming meeting dates far in advance. It has long been a problem. What our chapter needs is a volunteer to procure and to coordinate programs for the year, months ahead of time. Could you be the TU member to take on this responsibility??

Remember, if you know of a young (age 13 – 19) beginning fly fisher, enter his or her name in the drawing which will take place at the June meeting. We will be awarding gear to a few lucky entrants. The entrants must be present to win. Call or e-mail any officer.

Please support your TU Banquet this year by attending or by purchasing Grand Prize tickets. Donated prizes, new or pre-loved, are always welcome!!

January's meeting, on the 29th, will feature our friends from the DEC – always a great program. Don't miss it. (See next item – Ed.) Come early to the meeting and tie some Ausable Wulffs.

Dee Maciejewski, President

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting Tuesday, **January 29, 2008, 7:30 pm** at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Fly Tying will start at 6pm.** Please bring orange or red thread, because we will be tying the Ausable Wulff.

The meeting will include our annual presentation by DEC staff. Scott Cornett and Joseph Evans will discuss:

- ✓ **Results from the 2007 electrofishing, angler diary, and temperature studies for Clear Creek, Lime Lake Outlet, Hosmer Brook, and McKinstry Creek.**
- ✓ **Preview of 2008 Ischua Creek creel survey.**
- ✓ **Preview of planned 2008 fish sampling work.**
- ✓ **Summary of 2007 habitat work and preview of future planned habitat work.**
- ✓ **Stream reclassification for protecting more trout waters.**
- ✓ **Questions from members.**

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. (See the last page of the newsletter for details, Ed.) 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.
- **Scott Cornett**, of DEC, has kindly sent us a link which can be used to see the results of various surveys, on area waters, conducted in 2007 and in previous years. It is well worth a look. The link is www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27272.html.

- **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 streambank 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.
- **Adopt-A-Highway Program.** **Jim Barry** will be taking over the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Our thanks to Jim for assuming this responsibility and to **Chuck Godfrey** for his hard work on this program in the past.
- **TU Member is Published!** (By Dee Maciejewski) In case you haven't seen it, check out the October '07 issue of The Conservationist (online at www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/24936.html), to enjoy an expanded view of falling autumn leaves, written by Newsletter Editor, Russ Shefrin. Congratulations, Russ

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Articles

Editor's Note from Russell Shefrin:

As most of you know, due to other commitments, Vince Tobia has stepped down from the position of editor of Trout Talk. I have been asked to assume his role. My hope is to do as good a job as he did. I want to thank him for his efforts in general, and, on a more personal note, for his willingness to publish my scribbling of recent years. Vince, good luck on your future endeavors!

As I have been reflecting on the newsletter, several thoughts have occurred; and I would like to share some of them with you. The first is financial. The printed version of the newsletter, even though it now comes out only five times a year, is quite expensive to WNY TU. It has been suggested that, as a cost saving measure, those who receive the electronic version forego the printed version. I recently asked those on the electronic mailing list for an opinion on this matter, and the majority of the respondents supported the idea. However, there are a couple of problems which I will need to address. First, some of the electronic recipients did say they want to receive the printed newsletter. Secondly, I will have to see how the (rather lengthy) membership list is organized in order to determine the practicality of removing names from the list of those who receive the printed material. Thirdly, the membership list does not include email addresses, so I cannot cross reference names and addresses with email addresses. It may be necessary for those of you who are willing to receive only the electronic version, and whose email "return address" does not include your name, to email me with your name and address. (I will let you know.) Finally, if the electronic newsletter becomes an expanded version of the printed edition, more people may want to receive both.

I also have been wondering if there are ways we could enhance the newsletter, particularly the electronic version, which avoids the financial and space limitations of the print edition. We could, for example, include some of your photos of our fine area trout streams, your experiences on them, our restoration projects, etc. Another possibility is a list of references or "links" to articles (e.g., on the web) relevant to conservation of cold water fisheries. A third idea is a monthly feature on tips to enhance your fishing experience. This would be a great place to share some of the insights which you have found particularly useful on our local waters. (I know TU is a conservation organization, not a fishing club; but trout fishing is the medium through which many of us directly experience the need for that conservation. I think it is appropriate, therefore, to include articles which make our fishing more enjoyable.)

Finally, as always, if you have written a piece which might be suitable for the newsletter, please send it in; and I will review it. Articles could include comments on relevant environmental issues, advice on improving fishing skills, stories about on-stream experiences, etc.

This is your newsletter. I would be very curious about your ideas on how we can make it even more useful. Please email me with your suggestions.

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