

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) April 2008

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting Tuesday, April 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 pink or white thread, because we will be tying the Pink Woolly Bugger.

The meeting will feature a talk by Sean Meagan or Paul Fuhrmann, who will discuss the NYS DOT McKinstry Creek Mitigation Project. This presentation should be of great interest to all of us who value the conservation and restoration of cold water fisheries. Please join us!

President's Report

Our banquet was a great success, making nearly \$3800 profit for the chapter. A big thank you to the banquet committee, and especially to Len Bigaj for pulling it all together as Chair. He works all year long to see that our biggest fundraiser is also an enjoyable evening. I know I thanked Dave Tooke at the banquet, but I want to thank him in print for his efforts as our Awards Chairman! All recipients were very pleased.

TU MEMBERS!! Don't you know a young person between 13 and 19 years old who wants to fly fish? Enter him or her in the "Yute Raffle" that will be held at the June meeting (June 24th at the Donovan Post). E-mail me the name of the person, who MUST be at the June meeting to win! A few lucky people will win equipment packages.

Just an added emphasis: It is very important that we get your e-mail address! You must reply with your address to be included in the September Rod Raffle (Ed. Note: See under Announcements), even if you are on our current list! Just send it to Russ and myself. Thanks.

The WNY Chapter is always looking for new volunteers to step forward. Can you help out at stream projects? Spend time sharing your knowledge of fly fishing with veterans in a Project Healing Waters program? Join a Committee? Just show up at meeting, or call any officer to volunteer. I want to thank Antoinette Grote for volunteering as Education Committee Chair! Antoinette currently is a board member, and she will be filling this important role involving young people.

I look forward to seeing you all at the April meeting. Sean Meagan or Paul Fuhrmann will be discussing "The NYSDOT McKinstry Creek Mitigation Project". Come early and tie flies!!

Dee Maciejewski

Announcements

- **May Tree Planting** by Chuck Godfrey. We will definitely be planting trees on the Kennedy property on Oatka Creek the first weekend in May. I plan on starting at 9am on Sat., May 3, breaking for lunch around noon, and then trying to finish that afternoon. If we get 8 or 10 people, we should hopefully be able to do it all in one day. If so, we would like to try to get to the Wiscoy no-kill section on Sunday 5/4, again at 9. If we don't get done on the 3rd, we would finish the Kennedy property on the 4th, and maybe get to the Wiscoy that afternoon, or the next weekend. If we need to use the second weekend for the Wiscoy, it will have to be on Sunday 5/11 at 9, which I realize is Mother's Day; but I have a memorial service for my mother-in-law on 5/10 and can't do it then. The trees will be arriving late in the day on 4/25 at Allegany; and Scott Cornett and I will make arrangements to have them here in Buffalo for May 3rd.

The Kennedy property is located south of Warsaw, on the east side of Rte 19, at 3363 South Main St., Warsaw. This is just south of Curtiss Rd., which comes into Rte 19 from the west. He has a black mailbox that says "Ken edy" on the north side of the box. (It's missing the 2nd "n".) There is a long driveway between buildings and down to a bridge (that you can see when you turn in the driveway) across the creek. You can drive down to the bridge, and I would suggest parking on the near side of the bridge, off to the left if possible. That way, everyone will not be driving over the bridge.

As always, we will supply lunch of sandwiches, chips, etc. and drinks, probably just water, as that seems to have become the most popular thing people have been drinking at the projects. If anyone feels that he or she may be able to help, please contact me either by email steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net or cell phone 440-6995, so that I have a rough idea of how many people to plan on for working and lunch. Also contact me if you have any questions. I will be in Arizona from 4/24-5/1, and will try to check emails while I am out there.

- **Bison City Teach-Me-To-Fish Program.** According to their press release, the Bison City Rod and Gun Club will be presenting their Teach-Me-To-Fish Program for kids from inner city, rural, and suburban locations. It will take place at the Rod and Gun Club, 511 Ohio Street, on April 27, 2008, from 2 to 4 pm. There will be a presentation by outdoor writer, Forrest Fisher, "Learning Stations" (including knot tying, spin-casting and open-face spinning, and feeding of steelhead fry), and actual fishing. Rods, reels, bait, and lessons are all provided. The program is free, as are the refreshments. There is no age limit and no

pre-registration. Those interested can call Dave Barus at 597-4081 with any questions. Alternatively, questions can be answered by calling 652-2256 or 855-1139.

- **Banquet Report** (by Len Bigaj). On behalf of W.N.Y. T.U. and myself I would like to thank all who attended and supported our Banquet. I would like to thank Gary and Ann Coons for all the help before and during the Banquet, Jim Zak for all his help obtaining Door Prizes, Jim Stachowski for being our M.C., and Paul Maciejewski for doing a great job as our auctioneer. I especially want to thank all of our sponsors for their donations, which made this year's Banquet a success. The winner of the Grand Prize was Vince Tobia... CONGRATULATIONS!!! We Made \$3788.58 on the Banquet.

Fly Tying:

Thanks to Chuck Godfrey, Dave Unetich, and Bill Jedlicka. We tied 20 Olive Woolly Buggers at the March Chapter meeting.

- **Western NY Jewel About to Get a Polish** (by Gary Coons). McIntosh Brook, one of the jewels of Allegany State Park, has been chosen by the Red House Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited for a habitat improvement project. (Ed. Note: Please see the February, 2008, Newsletter.) Many of you are familiar with the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV), otherwise known as "Bring Back the Brookie". With the help of Allegany State Park, New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, SUNY at Fredonia, and Trout Unlimited, the stream will undergo habitat improvement and a series of studies over the next three years to see how the native brook trout respond. Seventeen structures are planned, and the sites have been carefully chosen to yield the best benefit given what the stream has to offer in terms of its own resources. These structures are designed to make use of surrounding naturally occurring features; and, unless you look very closely, you probably will not realize the change in the stream. These changes to the stream, it is hoped, will develop cold water resources that will help the Brookie to survive the low water conditions that McIntosh Brook experiences in the summer months. Also, they should create holding areas for fish in the winter, increasing survival of hold-over populations. With these improvements, McIntosh Brook's biology should support larger, healthier populations of brook trout. Fredonia State University will be conducting a study in invertebrates and food sources in conjunction with NYS DEC.

As you can well imagine, volunteer help with this project will be needed. Most of the work will be accomplished on or near weekends, i.e., the Friday, Saturday time frame. Although the dates have not been set, this project will require multiple days over the summer, in the hope that it can be finished this year. With enough manpower, or womanpower as the case might be, all the parties involved are aiming at completing two structures each work day. Initial biological studies and surveys will be accomplished first, and further project planning is to take place in mid-May. This is a super opportunity for the Western New York Trout Unlimited chapter to jump in and to "get our feet wet" with the EBTJV. Red House Brook Chapter is heading this project for TU. However, our help in personnel and resources make could make it a joint chapter project, something we don't get to do very often.

Chuck Godfrey & Gary Coons are the project representatives and will be the points of contact for information on project work dates. If you can give half a day, one day, two days or more, your efforts will be appreciated. Many hands will make the work load much easier.

- **Free Chance to Win a Rod** (Forwarded by Dee Maciejewski). Yes, you read it correctly. Not only do you get a chance on a great 6 1/2 foot #4-5 weight rod, but also to give the chapter an opportunity to save some money. What we want is your current email address so newsletters and meeting notices can be sent out

electronically if you desire. It currently costs us about \$.75 for each newsletter to be printed and mailed, and we send over 600 each time. Since we mail 5 hardcopy newsletters a year, that's over \$2000! If we could cut that figure even in half, a substantial amount of money that could be more available for our local projects, not to mention the paper that would be saved! The remainder of the newsletters is now electronic, but **if we don't have your address, you aren't getting them!** We only want your email for chapter use. We will not share it with anyone else.

Even if you think we have your email, we may not. Many of the addresses on our current small list are undeliverable. Only those who reply will be entered in the rod drawing. The winner will be selected in September, and if not present, will be notified by.....you guessed it email.

Simply email your name, and just say "yes" if you want all newsletters sent electronically, or "no" if you still want the hardcopy issues that are published.

Send your reply to both of the following so the lists can be checked for errors:

Russ Shefrin (Editor) newsletter@wnytroutunlimited.org

Dee Maciejewski (President) president@wnytroutunlimited.org

Please help us, and maybe win a great rod! Do it now, and ask your friends to do the same.

- **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 but only in the electronic Newsletter. 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).

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Articles

Editor's Note: The WNY TU Chapter Meeting on March 25, 2008, included a fascinating presentation, by TU member, Craig Zink, on geology and the fisherman. After discussing the geological dynamics which have shaped the rock which underlies the Western New York landscape, Mr. Zink went on to present information on the evolution of modern fishes and concluded with an analysis of the mechanics which affect stream formation and behavior. If we are to make intelligent decisions on such matters as stream conservation and restoration, it is vital to understand how our waters got there in the first place and how they respond to the forces acting upon them. Mr. Zink's lecture contributed greatly to that understanding. He was also kind enough to distribute a number of detailed handouts; they are greatly appreciated. As noted at the meeting, there is a website which I found helpful in interpreting stream mechanics. It is worth a visit as a supplement to Mr. Zink's presentation:

<http://www.animalrangeextension.montana.edu/riparianmgt/index.htm>.



Hands On

By

Russell Shefrin

Did I get that date right? Yes, indeed I did. It was September 10; and there, clinging to the door of my house near Cazenovia Creek, was a dark bodied mayfly. As far as I could tell, it was what we fly fishers call a Leadwing Coachman. Now, according to my reference handbook, this creature is primarily an early (trout) season fly and does not hatch after mid-August. But there it was, taking a breather perhaps, on my screen door, in the second week of September.

How about this: I was sitting in my canoe, afloat on a small Adirondack lake one quiet June morning. The water was clear (by tannin stained north country lake standards) and flat as a piece of glass. Another of my books tells me that, under these circumstances, I am not likely to catch much on dry flies, especially on a short leader;

because the trout can get such a long and close look at my fly. But there I was, pulling in brook trout after brook trout on my rather crudely tied caddis dry attached to a 7 ½ foot leader.



Up Close: Winter Melts Away on Cazenovia Creek

Don't get me wrong. I'm not "dissing" books, and I admit that the works in my possession may not be the last words on their respective subjects. Truth is, I love books; they almost invariably broaden my horizon. Sometimes, though, my experience with nature has not been what I had expected from my reading. That's one reason why I enjoy actual encounters with the natural world. Moreover, even when (as is often the case) the books turn out to be "right"; and what happens is as predicted, having had the personal experience somehow makes the whole matter more vivid, more meaningful. Earlier one season, for example, I was nymph fishing on one of our fine local trout streams. The water was exceptionally transparent. I could easily see to the bottom, even in the deeper pools. Therefore, I could keep track of both my strike indicator and the weighted nymph. "The

book" tells us the current at the bottom of a stream is usually slower than that at the surface; hence the importance of "mending line". However, on this occasion I could observe the process clearly; and the difference in speed between the strike indicator and the nymph was dramatic. Now I have a much more "personal" sense of this important natural phenomenon.

So what is the moral of these little stories? It is this: For me and, undoubtedly, others, to appreciate nature fully, we have to experience it directly and, perhaps, to get our hands a bit dirty (or wet). Reading a book (enlightening as it may be), watching the Discovery Channel, or visiting some theme park just won't do it. That's why I value "conservation" and, because fly fishing is one of the ways I get close to the outdoors, am a member of TU. I want to do what I can to make sure all of us continue to have the opportunity to experience nature first hand, close up, and in our own individual ways. Not just a printed, pictured, or packaged version, but the real deal, personalized.