

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) February 2014

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Shows-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

Spring Banquet-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 7:30 pm, at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Please note that there will be no fly-tying prior to this month's chapter meeting.

The presenters, for the "entertainment" portion of our February 25 Chapter meeting, will be Mr. Scott Cornett and Mr. James Zanett of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. They will discuss: (1) The results of the 2013 stream sampling and habitat enhancement projects, (2) Proposed regulation changes for 2015, (3) Stream and habitat enhancement projects coming up in 2014, (4) General questions from the audience.

The annual DEC presentation is one of our most popular. You are sure to find it highly informative. Please join us.

Announcements

- **A Report from Mr. Len Bigaj:**

Shows: The W.N.Y.Sports and Travel Expo will take place on March 6 through 9, 2014, in Hamburg, N.Y. The show hours are

Thursday, March 6- Noon to 4pm and 5pm to 9pm.

Friday, March 7 - Noon to 4pm and 5pm to 9pm.

Saturday, March 8 -10am. to 3pm.

Sunday, March 9 – 11am. to 5pm.

On Sunday, we will be tying with the kids from Noon to 4pm. I will not be available, so Dave Bollman and Bill Koerner are going to take over the show. If you would like to help with the booth and tie with the kids, please let me know. Thanks, Len.

Project Healing Waters: (Temporarily suspended until Mr. Bigaj is available again. Ed.)

Banquet: The banquet is on March 29, 2014, at Lucarelli's Banquet Center, Abbott Road. Thanks to Elma Printing for donating the printing for the Banquet and Grand prize tickets this year. Please try to attend; we need your support.

This year's Grand Prize is an LG 55" HD TV; prize tickets are \$10.00 each or 3/\$20.00; winner need not be present to win. If you cannot attend, but would like to support your chapter, you can send me your donation for tickets; and I will enter you in the drawing. Send to: LEN BIGAJ, 58 BALEN DR., LACKAWANNA, NY 14218.

Thanks to our banquet committee, we have some great items to be auctioned off: Orvis rod and reel, Vegas getaway, Pro-Team vacuum, Coach and Vera Bradley and so much more. Dave Bollman will have tickets at the meeting, \$30.00 each; tickets are also available at Orvis and Oak Orchard fly shops, or you can call Len at 716-826-4178 (cell: 867-4178). If you have anything you would like to donate, new or used, to be used at the banquet, it would be greatly appreciated.

See attached flyer for more information. Thanks to all, and see you at the banquet, Len.

- **Report from Stream Projects Chairman, Mr. Chuck Godfrey:** Mr. Godfrey would like to call our attention to the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen Awards Banquet announcement which is included at the end of this newsletter. (If you have opted out of receiving such communications, it will not accompany your copy of the newsletter.) Ed.
- **Salmon and Steelhead Committee Chairman, Mr. Don Kwiatkowski,** asks us to be aware of upcoming meetings on The State of Lake Ontario. He has forwarded an announcement, which can be found in the Articles section of this newsletter. Ed.
- **News From N.Y. S. Department of Environmental Conservation: DEC Biologist, Mr. Scott Cornett would like us to know that Genesee River Angler Diarists are needed.** He writes: The New York State DEC Region 9 Fisheries Office will be running an angler diary program on the Genesee River in Allegany and Wyoming Counties. The program will run from March 1st through October 31st, 2014. This program

will cover the river from the PA line downstream through Letchworth State Park and will record data for both trout and bass fishing trips.

If you fish the Genesee River (even once) and would like to keep a diary for DEC please call the Region 9 Fisheries Office at (716) 372-0645 or e-mail at fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us. This diary program will be used to evaluate the quality of the fishery and to determine future management actions.

- **Mr. Bill Jedlicka Files this Report about the Burchfield – Penney Exhibit:** "Fly Fishing: A Celebration of the Stream" is a collaboration between WNY TU and the Burchfield Penney Arts Center. The exhibit runs from 2/14/14 through 5/18/14 and features artwork by Thomas Aquinas Daly, Tom Kegler and Richard C. Harrington. Also featured in the exhibit is a display of flies tied by Dave Bollman and Charlie Dickson. Additionally there will be a display of vintage fly fishing equipment loaned by chapter members. Follow the link below for details on the exhibit. Hope to see you there!

<http://www.burchfieldpenney.org/exhibitions/exhibition:02-14-2014-05-18-2014-fly-fishing-a-celebration-of-the-stream/>

- **Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ended January 31, 2014 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):**

		prior period thru 12/31/13	this period thru 01/31/14
(CHECKING ACCT)			
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2013	\$1,729.75	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2014		\$1,554.75
INFLOWS:	NONE		
TOTAL INFLOWS:		\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	TRAVEL	\$175.00	
	FLY-TYING SUPPLIES		\$44.64
	NEWSLETTER POSTAGE		\$206.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS:		\$175.00	\$250.64
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2013	\$1,554.75	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2014		\$1,304.11

		prior period thru 12/31/13	this period thru 01/31/14
(MONEY MKT ACCT)			
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2013	\$25,921.78	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2014		\$25,923.18

INFLOWS:	INTEREST	\$1.40	\$0.66
OUTFLOWS:	NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2013	\$25,923.18	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2014		\$25,923.84



Articles:

**All Tied Up
The Woody Bugger**

Vol. 11 February 2014

Cattaraugus Creek, located in the western corner of New York State, is one of the best kept secrets in the USA. While we're famous for our wicked lake effect snowstorms and, since 1940, those awesome Anchor Bar wings, the "Catt" is seldom mentioned in national publications as a destination for steelhead anglers. Well, that's OK with us; because, to local fly fishers in the know, it means access to one of the best steelhead waters on the planet and in relative solitude. You may encounter the occasional group experience, but there's not much in the way of "combat fishing" happening along the banks of the Catt.

Although I gave up the pursuit of steelhead several seasons ago, most of those I caught came from the banks of the Cattaraugus between Scoby Hill Dam in Springville and the Route 5 Bridge in Irving, on Seneca Nation land. Now, our chapter has several

members who really look forward to steelhead season; and, so, I wanted to feature a column on tying flies specifically for them. Lacking the requisite experience myself, I thought, "Who in Western New York could know more about the state of the art than Nick Pionessa, who runs the Oak Orchard Fly shop in Williamsville, NY.?"



Nick is a soft spoken, unassuming pro who knows his craft and is unselfish with the knowledge he has amassed over a lifetime of pursuing his passion. I recently dropped by Oak Orchard to pick Nick's brain a little and to ask him to share the recipe for one of his favorite flies. He was busy at his computer ordering hackle when I came in, but talk soon turned to steelhead and flies and favorites.

The *Woody Bugger* is an adaptive pattern that draws its roots from Russ Blessing's ubiquitous *Woolly Bugger*. Nick didn't care much for the chenille body, so he substituted SLF dubbing with a tinsel rib to provide some flash. A fast sinking fly, the wood duck hackle gives the fly the ability to trap air around its body when wet. To tie Nick's *Woody Bugger*, you'll need the following:

- Hook: Daiichi #2421, Size 6
- Thread: Danville 70 Denier white waxed
- Head: 3/32" dia. copper bead
- Tail: Yellow Marabou
- Body: SLF Summer Duck
- Rib: medium copper tinsel
- Hackle: Wood Duck flank

Grasp bead with smooth pliers and ream out the small hole to allow for the return wire on the hook. Start the thread at the back of the hook and wind it forward to a point, approximately 1/4" behind the bead, which is the tie-in point for the marabou tail. Select a section of marabou and stroke the fibers to the back of the fly. Pull off the short feathers, then gather, while checking for correct length. Place the marabou at the tie-in position and transfer it to your free hand. Tie in at the front and pull the tail tight. Wrap back to the bend, then (important), around the tail twice. Select and tie in a medium copper tinsel rib on the backside at the start of the tail and clip off the marabou butts. Now, spin some SLF summer duck dubbing on the thread, then wrap it on full and even. Bring the dubbing forward, keeping it thin and even but stop in time to leave space for the hackle. Next, wind the rib forward four times and tie it off on top.

Secure it and smooth off the hackle area. Brush the thorax with a Velcro brush until it is nice and buggy. Select a wood duck flank feather, remove the unwanted stuff, separate the sweet spot from the flank feather and prepare the end for tie in by clipping off about 1/8" of the feathers on either side of the quill. Tie the hackle in flat on top of the hook and fold it back while wrapping completely around the shank. Tie it off underneath. Lastly, spin a small amount of dubbing on your thread to fill in behind the bead, then whip finish and add a drop of head cement to finish the fly.

Nick likes to fish this fly with a simple tight line swing across and down but won't use a sink tip alone, because he says it tends to spook fish. He applies a long mono leader to the business end of the line to achieve a stealthy approach. Begin with an initial cast tight to bank structure while retrieving from soft water to the faster water transition zone, similar to the way you would a standard *Woolly Bugger*. He told me that, while a dead swing is effective, the occasional stripping motion can elicit a solid strike.

If you add the *Woody Bugger* to your steelhead arsenal and want some help getting started, here's a link to a helpful step-by-step tutorial: [Woody Bugger | Oak Orchard Flies](#). Nick adds this intro: "This is an old one but somehow never got a tutorial done on it. The original version caught me some of my first ever steelhead on the Catt, back in the early nineties. My first two fish this year came on a tube version, so I guess the evolution continues. This version has had the longest lifespan so far. "

Find a quiet section of the Catt and give the *Woody Bugger* a run. I know I'll tie a few, even if all I can say is it looks great in my steelhead box. But if it works out for you the way I think it will, take a photo of your trophy and drop by Oak Orchard to let Nick hear about it. I'm sure he'll get a kick out of seeing the grin on your face, knowing he was the guy who turned us all on to a dynamite pattern. [But, use care

when photographing your catch. You might want to check out the “Trout” Magazine article referenced by Mr. Gary Coons in the October, 2013, issue of this newsletter. Ed.]

Jeff Kohler
WNY Chapter TU

DEC Announces State of Lake Ontario Meetings

Biologists to Update Status of Lake's Fisheries

The meeting dates are as follows:

Monday, March 3, 2014: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Carlson Auditorium, in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science building (76-1125) on the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) campus, Rochester, Monroe County. The meeting is co-hosted by RIT and the Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board.

Thursday, March 13, 2014: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, Niagara County. The meeting is co-hosted by Niagara County Cooperative Extension and the Niagara County Sportfishery Development Board.

Tuesday, March 18, 2014: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the DEC Training Academy, 24 County Route 2A, Pulaski (the former Portly Angler Motel), Oswego County. The meeting is co-hosted by the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association.

The DEC, United States Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources biologists will make a number of presentations, including updates on the status of trout and salmon fisheries, forage fish, stocking programs and fisheries management plans. Ample time will be provided at the end of the scheduled program for the audience to interact with the presenters. Prior to the public meetings, information summaries for a host of [Lake Ontario fisheries](#) assessment programs will be posted on DEC's website. Previous annual reports can also be found at this site. For further information contact Steven LaPan, New York Great Lakes Section Leader at Cape Vincent Fisheries Research Station, [\(315\) 654-2147](tel:3156542147).

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SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014

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LACKAWANNA, NY

6PM CASH BAR

7PM DINNER

\$30 TICKET INCLUDES: BUFFET DINNER & DOOR PRIZE ENTRY

ALSO: SILENT AND VERBAL AUCTIONS, BUCKET & SPECIAL RAFFLES

FOR MORE PRIZE INFO AND FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

LEN BIGAJ

(716) 826-4178 or email: lbigaj001@roadrunner.com

OR VISIT:

OAK ORCHARD FLY SHOP, 5977 MAIN ST., WILLIAMSVILLE

ORVIS SHOP, EASTERN HILLS MALL

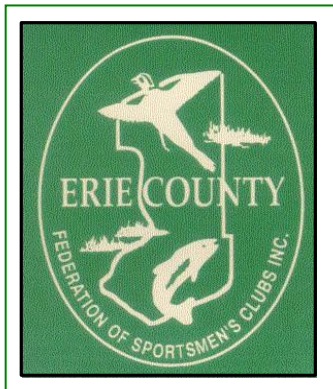


Vera Bradley

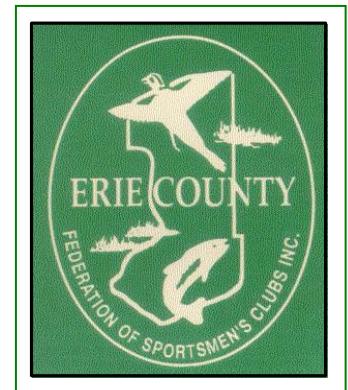


Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization with the mission to: conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen Annual Banquet &



Awards Dinner



Date: Saturday, March 15, 2014

6:00 PM - Social Hour (Open bar All Night)

7:00 PM – Sit Down Dinner

Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall

2735 Union Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

\$40 Per Ticket - \$70 Per Couple

For Ticket and Program ad information please contact:
Paula Wharton – 716-941-6159; pawharton@verizon.net
Dave Smyczynski – 716-949-9483; brador7@hotmail.com

**Great Food, Great Door Raffles,
Great Silent Auction, Great Prizes!!**

Please join us to promote Conservation Youth Scholarships, 4-H Pheasant Raising Programs, Kids Fishing Clinics, Outdoors Conservation, and to Honor Individuals for Work in Conservation.

[Enjoy the Open Bar All Night](#)

Visit our website at <http://www.eriectyfsc.org>

Find us on Facebook – [Erie County Federation](#)