

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) June, 2009

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**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, June 30, 2009, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying begins at 6pm. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying Black Woolly Buggers.**

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be **Sandy Cunningham**, who will discuss the Nichols School “Trout in the Classroom” Program. Ms. Cunningham has been an enthusiastic participant in the program, which introduces students to important elements of trout biology. Please help WNYTU demonstrate its support for “Trout in the Classroom”, and for Ms. Cunningham’s efforts on behalf of cold water fisheries conservation, by attending the June meeting. This will be a unique opportunity to hear from someone who has put one of TU’s education initiatives into action. More information about the Ms. Cunningham’s work can be obtained by going to [www.nicholstrout.org](http://www.nicholstrout.org).

## President’s Report

Our guest speaker for May was Laura Ortiz from the Army Corp of Engineers. Laura put on a great presentation and answered questions on the Springville Dam fish passage study and its progress. From an environmental standpoint, I am encouraged to see that the study has revealed the sediment above the dam is not contaminated.

Even if there is no action taken on the project, it is good to hear that a headwater resource to Lake Erie is not as polluted as previously thought.

June is our final meeting month before our summer hiatus. This month's meeting will focus on youth education activities and the youth raffle. Sandra Cunningham, our Trout in the Classroom educator from Nichols School, will be putting on a Power Point presentation which documents the successful TIC project. Please join us in support of the youth activities meeting.

Stream cleanup chairman, Ric Toczek, reports the National Stream Clean-up Day was a success. Though volunteer turnout was less than it was in past years, our area streams looked amazingly clean. It is encouraging to think that fellow sportsmen & women are caring for the resource we work to protect.

I'm going to plug the Erie County Fair booth here. For those of you who have not been to the Conservation Building to visit our award winning display, you have missed out on a diversity of informative displays by area conservation groups as well as NYS DEC and US Fish & Wildlife Service. Len Bigaj insures that our booth is manned all 12 days of the Fair. Our focus is on education, but we are also raising funds for our organization through fly sales and other TU merchandise. For those of you that have signed up to man the booth, I want to say thank you in advance. I would ask the rest of the membership if you could help out. Not a full day, just a few hours of your time to help YOUR organization thrive.

Over the past few months we have been coordinating with several local conservation organizations concerning used fishing line collection containers. Though not fully implemented, I am again encouraged to see fellow sportsman involved in the process of caring about the resource we protect. Look for these PVC disposal tubes around area fishing access points by the end of the summer.

Finally, on a very sad note.... Jim Zak, one of our Board of Directors, experienced the loss of his beloved wife, Judy, on June 13, 2009. I would ask you to join me in thought and prayer for a fellow TU member and his family.

Gary Coons, WNY TU Chapter President

## **Announcements**

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:** At the May chapter meeting, we tied forty White Woolly Buggers, thanks to the assistance of Craig Zink, Jim Logel, Dave Unetich, Larry Sformo, Bill Jedlicka, Paul Maciejewski, and Gene Romanyshyn.

**Shows:** This is the last meeting before the Erie County Fair show, which runs from August 12<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. If you have any flies which you would like to donate for the show, please bring them to me at the June meeting. Also, if you can help to staff the Fair booth, please let me know. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. Alternatively, you can call me at 826-4178 or contact me at [lbigaj001@roadrunner.com](mailto:lbigaj001@roadrunner.com). I will provide fair and parking passes. Thanks.

**Project Healing Waters:** We will be fishing with the veterans at the Elma Conservation Club on June 19, July 14, August 5, August 25, September 15, and October 7. If you can help out, please let me know. Thanks, Len.

- **News from DEC:** Mr. Scott Cornett, Fisheries Biologist, has notified us that, during the week of June 8, DEC stocked surplus yearling brook trout in the following area streams:
  - Cattaraugus Creek (Hurdville Road to East Arcade) - 6000 yearling brookies.
  - Ischua Creek (Franklinville/Farmersville town line, downstream to Cooney Road) - 4000 yearling brookies.
- **Stream Cleanup:** Mr. Ric Toczek reports that the 2009 WNY TU stream cleanup took place on Saturday, June 13. Our efforts were concentrated on the East Koy, though some work was also done on the Wiscoy at the Wyoming County Fairgrounds. Ric noted that there was not much trash to be picked up. While someone may have “beaten us to it” or the June vegetation may have been concealing some items, it is hoped that the small amount of debris is due to enhanced conscientiousness on the part of area fishers. Next year, the clean-up may take place in late April, when vegetation will be less extensive. Our thanks to all who participated: From WNYTU – Gregg Ely, Will Ely, Dave Unetich, Russ Shefrin, and Ric Toczek. From Boy Scout Troop 824 – John Kummer, Ryan Gross. (Please see photos on page 6.)
- **Charles Arrick Youth Raffle (by Dee Maciejewski):** Do you know a young person who is a beginner at fishing and would like to try fly fishing? At our June 30th meeting, we will hold our Second Annual Youth Raffle. Last year, Charles Arrick, one of WNYTU’s original members, donated his fly fishing equipment to us, with the stipulation that young beginner fly fishers would be the recipients. This year, we have decided to continue the “tradition” and have named the event for Mr. Arrick, who recently passed away. His wife has graciously donated money for this year’s raffle, and there will be an assortment of prizes for the lucky winners, who must be present to claim their winnings. Please enter the name of a youth, up to the age of 19, whom you know will benefit from this raffle. Send the name, age and phone number of the person to President Gary Coons or to me, Dee Maciejewski, at [dryfly@roadrunner.com](mailto:dryfly@roadrunner.com).
- **Editor’s Note:** Our “Trout Talk” newsletter is published in electronic format each month except for July, August, and December. In order to contain costs, the print version is only available five times a year (January, February, June, September, and November). Unfortunately, even on this schedule, the financial burden, to WNY TU, of the print newsletter remains considerable. Many of our members have agreed to forgo the print edition and to accept only the electronic version (which is sent to them via email). It would help our organization considerably (and perhaps save some trees!) if more of our members agreed to this arrangement. There is a further advantage to the subscriber. Specifically, the electronic version usually has more items than does the print version, often has pictures, etc., all because its length is not as constrained as is the paper form. Won’t you please consider adding your name to the list of those who receive, via e-mail, only the electronic newsletter? All you have to do is send me your e-mail and “snail mail” addresses so that I can add you to the electronic mailing list and remove your name from the paper mailing list. Please give this matter some serious consideration. I can be reached at [AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com).
- **Call for Articles:** Have a story to tell about on-stream experiences, cold water fisheries conservation, improving one’s fishing skills, understanding salmonids, etc.? Why not send it here and see if it is suitable for our newsletter? Just email it to me, and I’ll take a look. Or, if you have an idea, but would like some assistance in putting it into words, let me know; I might be able to help. Looking forward to hearing from you! Russ Shefrin, Editor. ([AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com).)

• **WNY TU Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ending May 31, 2009. (Submitted by Anthony Messina)**

BALANCE AT MAY 1, 2009	(CHECKING ACCOUNT)	\$202.12
INFLOWS:		
50/50 DRAWING		\$95.00
TU BOOKS		\$54.00
TRANSFER FROM MM ACCOUNT		\$1,250.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS	\$1,399.00
OUTFLOWS:		
50/50 DRAWING PRIZE		\$48.00
MEMBERSHIPS		\$50.00
FLY-TYING SUPPLIES		\$57.00
DONATION		\$1,000.00
MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$1,225.00
BALANCE AT MAY 31, 2009	(CHECKING ACCOUNT)	\$376.12

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BALANCE AT MAY 1, 2009	(MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT)	\$11,245.41
INFLOWS:		
INTEREST		\$1.48
TRANSFER FROM BANQUET ACCOUNT		\$10,000.00
OUTFLOWS:		
TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCOUNT		\$1,250.00
BALANCE AT MAY 31, 2009	(MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT)	\$19,996.89

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**Articles:**

“Webs” by Russell Shefrin

I almost invariably fish alone. No particular reason; I’ve just always done it that way. But, recently, during one of my regular trips to the Adirondacks, I was reminded of what a rich experience it can be when I am cognizant of how connected I am to those who share my love for the activity. (I will omit an account of how I met each of the people in this little tale; those are stories in themselves.)

First, location, location, location. I was talking with Adirondack resident Robert Farrell, a retiree with years of fishing expertise, about where to fish that day. Bob is a highly successful catcher of brook trout, with photos to prove it. The streams, he told me, were too high that weekend to be productive. But, then, he generously let me in on a secret: “Try \_\_\_\_\_ Pond”, he said. (I won’t name it here; this is no “kiss and tell” angling story.) He grabbed a scrap of paper and carefully drew a map of the pond. “When you get there, go to this place”, he advised, as he marked a precise spot with an “X”. “That’s where you’ll find them”. He didn’t have to do that; it’s just because of his willingness to share.

Now, what to use to catch a fish? Enter William Burke, fly-tyer extraordinaire and occasional lender of a kayak to those in need of water access. Trained in England on the finer points of wet fly fishing, Bill had told me that, when I seek brook trout in Adirondack ponds, I ought to try a Grey Ghost on a weighted line. This is not a fly with which I am familiar, but if Bill Burke tells you which wet fly to use, ensure you have one on the end of your tippet.

Finally, making it happen. With encouragement from my Adirondack host, Glenn Arnold, we launched the canoe and headed for the “X”. Sure enough, having had no success in the intervening reaches of the pond, when we reached the place Bob had marked on his hand drawn map, we landed the largest “brookie” I had ever caught, using the Grey Ghost, of course.

Normally, I am a catch and release fisherman, but Glenn had other ideas. He is deeply committed to conservation but also believes that, at times, it is entirely appropriate to say a short prayer and then to sacrifice a fish for dinner. I can see why. It turns out that he has a knack for cooking brook trout, something I had never tasted. The result was a viscerally satisfying ending to one of those perfect days.

Many of the current thinkers about “sustainability” point out that, if we are to continue to inhabit a viable planet, we need to cherish our connections to both the natural world and to our fellow human travelers on this voyage through life. I often think about that observation when I remember the wonderful experience that day in the Adirondacks. Had it not been for Bob’s map, Bill’s fly-fishing advice, and Glenn’s presence in the canoe (not to mention his cooking), I probably would not have had such a memorable time. Then, too, there are the wild spaces and creatures which set the stage for the story and provided its essential ingredients. The invaluable, and probably irreplaceable, web of connections among the human and non-human worlds was abundantly clear to me that day. All the more reason for us to support Trout Unlimited’s mission “to conserve, protect, and restore” our cold water fisheries heritage.

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Please See the Next Page for Scenes from Stream Clean-Up Day.

(Sorry about the “impressionistic” quality of some of the photos, but you get the idea! Ed.)



Russ Shefrin and Dave Unetich, Ready to Go.



John Kummer and Ryan Gross, Hard at Work.



Gregg Ely Checks  
Out the East Koy  
While Son, Will,  
Looks On.



Dave Unetich, Ric Toczek, John Kummer, and Ryan Gross Relax After a Job Well Done.



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