

# TROUT TALK

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

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(This edition of the newsletter is available only in electronic format.)

**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. (No fly-tying is scheduled for this meeting.)**

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be our own Jim Zak, who will discuss “Becoming an Outdoor Guide in New York State”. Jim has been a licensed guide in New York for fifteen years. His concentration has been fly fishing for trout, steelhead, and salmon in Western New York and the Adirondack Region. Please join us.

## President’s Report

I want to thank Tom Cornell for his presentation, during the February meeting, on Western fly fishing. The pictures Tom brought along were pretty spectacular; I can only imagine what it would be like to be there fishing blue ribbon trout waters.

March has us closing another Sportsman & Travel Expo show. The contacts we make during the show alone make it worth our time & effort to be there. Thank you to all the members who participated in this year’s show and especially for helping us to sponsor the youth fly tying activities. Several of the local sportsmen came by our booth to tell about the recent run of Steelhead coming into the smaller streams. Dream no more, the bite is on!

Keep an eye out for upcoming events: Stream projects, highway cleanup, etc. Ric Toczek is now our stream clean-up chairman. I know many of you, while out fishing, will pick up trash and fishing line. However, it has been some time since we had a formal stream clean up.

Environmental issues continue to be at the forefront of our mission. A couple of issues that we can show our support for are the continued funding for New York State's Environmental Protection Fund through the existing RETT (Real Estate Transfer Tax) and the Bigger Better Bottle Bill that you have heard mentioned at meetings. Assemblymen need to hear our voices to know that funding, already in place to protect New York's environment, continues to be spent in the areas that benefit us all.

March's guest speaker will be Jim Zak. Some know him as "the keeper of the video library" and member of the Board of Directors. You may not know that Jim is a registered guide. They don't call him Adirondack Zak for nothing.

See you at the meeting... Gary Coons, President

## **Announcements**

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:** Project Healing Waters will be at the V.A. on April 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm to 8pm. As for the next show, it will be in August.
- **Wiscony Diary Program:** During 2009, the DEC Region 9 Fisheries Office will be running an angler diary program for Wiscony Creek in Allegany and Wyoming Counties and is currently looking for anglers to keep diaries. If you fish Wiscony Creek (even once) and would like to keep a diary for DEC, please call the DEC Fisheries Office at (716) 372-0645 or e-mail at [fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us). The program will run March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. This program duplicates one run in 2006 and will be used in conjunction with a late-summer electrofishing survey to evaluate the fishery's overall quality. In 2006, over 115 anglers signed up for the program.
- **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. 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).
- **New York State Council of Trout Unlimited "Trout Waters" Youth Camp:** Gary Coons called my attention to the "Trout Waters" experience for young people, ages 14 to 17. This Trout Unlimited youth camp will be held from July 19 to 25 at the Vikings Resort property near the West Branch of the Delaware. Topics include fly fishing, entomology, ecology, and conservation. For details, please see the attached

brochure, which includes an application. Please note that the application deadline for this wonderful opportunity is APRIL 15.

- **DEC Summer Youth Camps:** For more great youth oriented conservation-related opportunities, please keep in mind the DEC Summer Environmental Education Camps. These include “Camp Colby”, near Saranac Lake in the northern Adirondacks; “Pack Forest”, north of Warrensburg in the southern Adirondacks; “Camp DeBruce”, located in the southern Catskills; and “Camp Rushford”, right here in our “backyard” at the Hanging Bog Wildlife Management Area. More information can be found at the DEC website. (Try <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>). Chuck Godfrey reports that the Erie County Federation sends five youth each year. Also, the DEC has a program to help low income youngsters make the experience more affordable. Information on the scholarship can be obtained from the DEC Region 9 office.
- **And Speaking of Youth:** National Trout Unlimited has just launched a new website for kids: [www.streamexplorers.org](http://www.streamexplorers.org). The goal of this program is to introduce young people to cold water conservation and to fly fishing. There are all sorts of benefits to motivating youngsters to care about the natural world and to participate actively in it. “Conserving, protecting, and restoring” our coldwater fisheries is a splendid medium for channeling these activities. Please take a look at TU’s youth initiative and see what you can do to introduce a child to the fishing and conservation pursuits we all value so much.
- **News from the North Country:** Just in time for Jim (“Adirondack”) Zak’s presentation at our upcoming chapter meeting, here are some items from the Adirondack region.
  - Hungry Trout Motor Inn burns. The center section of the motel, which is a separate building from the restaurant of the same name, was seriously damaged by fire earlier this month. Better check your reservations for your upcoming trip to the Ausable!
  - Fran Betters, owner of the famous “Adirondack Sport Shop” in Wilmington, N.Y., has made a plea for a successor. His message can be found at <http://ausablewulff.com/>. Please note: In no way is the announcement in this newsletter an endorsement of his request. If you want to make him an offer, make sure you do your homework!
  - David Barus has alerted us to a report on acid rain damage to Western Adirondack streams. We are already familiar with the impact of acid rain on Adirondack lakes, but this report describes the findings with respect to streams. Unfortunately, the news is not good. Streams are less able than are lakes to dilute the effects of acid rain in general and episodic pulses of acidity, in particular. A subsequent paper documents impairment of macroinvertebrate communities in the subject waterways. The report is at <http://www.nyserda.org/Programs/Environment/EMEP/finalreports.asp>.
- **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 February 28, 2009. (Submitted by Anthony Messina):**

BALANCE AT FEBRUARY 1, 2009	(CHECKING ACCOUNT)	\$371.87
INFLOWS:		
50/50 DRAWING (January Meeting)		\$139.00
DONATIONS		\$52.50
HIMMEL BOOK		\$5.00
HOLIDAY PARTY		\$5.50
TU MEMBERSHIP		\$17.50
TRANSFER FROM MONEY MARKET		\$200.00
TU MEMBERSHIP REBATES		\$75.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS	\$494.50
OUTFLOWS:		
NEWSLETTER PRINTING		\$122.00
FEDERATION DUES		\$90.00
NEWSLETTER POSTAGE		\$197.40
TU MEMBERSHIP		\$17.50
SUPPLIES (Name Tags)		\$15.90
DONATION (Federation Banquet)		\$70.00
50/50 DRAWING PRIZE (January Meeting)		\$70.00
MONTHLY MEETING (January 2009)		\$60.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$642.80
BALANCE AT FEBRUARY 28, 2009	(CHECKING ACCOUNT)	\$223.57

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BALANCE AT FEBRUARY 1, 2009	(MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT)	\$11,442.66
INFLOWS:		
INTEREST		0.88
OUTFLOWS:		
TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCOUNT		\$200.00
BALANCE AT FEBRUARY 28, 2009	(MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT)	\$11,243.54
ALL FUNDS ON DEPOSIT AT BANK OF AMERICA		

- **Lastly:** Here is an updated weblink which will enable you to follow the progress of the Nichols School “Trout in the Classroom” program. I have been assured this one will work:  
<http://nicholsnet.nicholsschool.org/teachers/scunningham/webcam/troutcam.htm>.



## Articles

### “Salvation at Oak Orchard” by Al Himmel

My friend, Mark Stothard, one of the most remarkable fishermen I have ever met, lived at the top of the hill, at the end of Park Avenue in Waterport, near Medina, N.Y. Oak Orchard Creek is one of the very best tributary streams around for salmon and steelhead fishing, so my venture to its waters was inevitable. Meeting Mark was an added attractant. Mark taught me how to find the resting steelhead and to cast weighted flies behind the spawning salmon so that hook ups became almost routine. Mark, who designed the carpet fly, invited me to his ramshackle den and taught me his method of tying those very successful flies. To my amazement, his den was adorned with paintings he had done, rods he had built, and even a guitar he had carved and assembled. His talents were infinite; and we became good friends until the day he moved to Bath, in order to be near his daughter, who needed weekly dialysis treatments. Unfortunately, Mark died of cancer soon thereafter.

The climb up and down the hill soon became unbearable for an octogenarian, so my visits to Oak Orchard became few and far between. That is, they did so until last year, when I stopped at the Archery Club to purchase a hot dog. I found that I could park behind the club for a five dollar donation. Wow, did that ever change my activities at Oak Orchard! I now could drive down the dirt road, park the car, jump into my habit and fish in a matter of minutes, all without the exhaustion generated by the uphill climb. Additionally, the dogs, pop and coffee were subject only to an optional donation to the fish bowl receptacle. Included in the bargain is the distinct possibility of hooking a relative of the twenty-four inch brown now mounted on my den wall. Try it; you may find paradise.

### Brook Trout Photos

Scott Cornett sent me these photos of spring brook trout. I thought you'd like to see them. (Russ Shefrin, ed.)



(Keep going. There's more to see.)



### **Float Stocking Photos**

At the February WNY TU chapter meeting, Jay Lechner described the process of stocking a stream by means of a chopped up canoe. He has kindly sent me some photos to illustrate.



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