

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) May, 2011

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**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, May 31, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. (There will be no fly tying at the May 31 meeting.)**

**Our presenter, for the “entertainment” portion, will be Mr. Larry Robinson of “Casting for Recovery”. This organization does valuable work, and the discussion should prove highly informative. Please join us.**

## President’s Report

Greetings Fellow TUers,

If you attended last month’s WNYTU chapter meeting, you are aware that we did not have our guest speaker. By mutual agreement, with the Buffalo Sabres in the playoffs, not many would be attending. That being said, our guest speaker for the May meeting is scheduled to be Larry Robinson of Casting for Recovery. I’m hoping you can attend, because Casting for Recovery is a very worthy organization.

I want to thank all the volunteers who attended the May 7<sup>th</sup> planting project on the North Branch of the Wiscoy. Weather conditions looked rather ominous; but, after a brief shower, we soon had our jackets off and completed the goals set for the day. Chuck Godfrey will be giving a more complete report on the day's events later in the newsletter.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the North Branch Wiscoy project is likely to be very labor intensive. Plans are quickly coming together for the work days. We will keep you informed of changes as they become available; but, most importantly, make sure Chuck has your contact info.

As with most meetings, the subject inevitably turned towards angling success. Despite high water levels and a cool, wet spring, anglers have met with success already. I was amazed to see a couple of hatches come off while on the Wiscoy. Steelhead anglers are still finding success in smaller tributaries.

I know that gas prices have hit you as hard as they have hit me. Statistical data shows fewer angling days pressure on area waters when fuel prices are high. I even participated in an on-line survey concerning that very subject. This will mostly likely affect participation in stream projects this summer, as well. If you are able to help out, consider carpooling to the Wiscoy project work days.

Please keep in mind, as we approach our summer hiatus, the Erie County Fair booth in the Conservation Building. Len has mentioned that, ideally, we would like to have two people in booth. This not only provides a break for both volunteers; but last year, on days with two people present, I was able to run a small casting clinic outside the building. This met with success; and, though membership recruitment may have been small, promoting the TU cause was well worth the effort.

We ALL live downstream. Please come out and support YOUR local chapter, become involved.

See you at the meeting.

Gary Coons, WNYTU Chapter President.

## **Announcements**

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:**

**Banquet:** The next WNY TU Annual Banquet will take place on March 24, 2012. If you would like to help out, we can sure use your help. (Len)

**Shows:** The next show will be the Erie County Fair, August 10 through 21, 2011. Set up will be on August 9. Please try to help out at our booth. I will have a sign-up sheet at the next chapter meeting. There will be two shifts, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. If you would like to tie any pattern and to donate the flies, I will replace your hooks and materials. ( Thanks, Len)

**Project Healing Waters:** We will be fishing with the Vets at the Elma Conservation Club on Tuesday, June 7; Wednesday, June 29; Wednesday, July 20; Tuesday, August 9; Wednesday, September 7; and Thursday, September, 29. On Saturday, May 21, we will be taking the Vets to fish at a private pond in Forestville. The use of the pond was donated, by the land owner, for our Project. If you would like to help out, please let me know. (Len)

- **News from DEC: Mr. Scott Cornett** of Region 9, DEC, sends the following message.  
 I'd like to offer my thanks to large crew of TU volunteers we had turn out for the tree planting on Saturday May 7th on the N. Branch of Wiscoy Creek. I think around 20 folks were there, and we managed to get all 1100-1200 trees planted and flagged by early afternoon. Amazing what can be accomplished when many hands work together!  
 Scott Cornett  
 Fishery Biologist  
 NYS DEC - Region 9
- **News from DOH:** We are pleased to have received a communication from another New York State agency, namely, the Department of Health. **Ms. Regina Keenan**, of their Center for Environmental Health, sends word of a new booklet they are developing on the topic of chemical contamination in fish. They would like to partner with anglers and others to distribute the advisory, which should be available soon. Ms. Keenan writes: *“Due to chemical contamination of fish in some New York State waters, the New York State Department of Health annually issues health advice about eating fish you catch. This year New York State .... is introducing a new free brochure for western New York. **“Western Region: New York State Health Advice on Eating Fish You Catch 2011-2012”** includes the advice for Niagara, Cattaraugus, Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming and Chautauqua counties. The brochure has pictures of fish, a map and other graphics. Contact 518-402-7800, 800-458-1158 or [btlsa@health.state.ny.us](mailto:btlsa@health.state.ny.us) for copies, and check under "Western Region" on the website [www.health.ny.gov/fish](http://www.health.ny.gov/fish).”*
- **Trout in the Classroom Update – A Report by Chuck Godfrey:** On April 25, I (Chuck Godfrey) travelled to Brockport High School as part of our Trout in the Classroom project. I led a one-hour presentation on trout in general, and brown trout, in particular. The students seemed interested and asked many intelligent questions. After the presentation, two busloads of students, along with two teachers, travelled to Hamlin Beach State Park to release the trout in Lake Ontario. We had good weather (a rare event this spring!) and great cooperation from Webb Pearsall, DEC Region 9 Fisheries Manager (who granted the stocking permit) and Jay Bailey, Superintendent of Hamlin Beach State Park (who provided personnel to assist in the stocking and provided the place to stock them). Rosemary Catlin, the Brockport teacher involved with the program, thanked us for our help. She is planning to participate in the program with us again next year. We currently have Frontier Middle School, The Nichols Middle School, and Springville-Griffith Institute in the program, also. If anyone knows another teacher who would like to be involved in Trout in the Classroom in Erie County, please have him or her contact me at [steelheader@roadrunner.com](mailto:steelheader@roadrunner.com). News of future presentations and fish releases, along with pictures of stockings will be in future newsletters. (Photos of the Brockport High School release event can be viewed in the “Articles” section of the current newsletter, Ed.)

- **North Branch Wiscoy Project – A Report by Chuck Godfrey:** On Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, we planted 1250 trees along the North Branch of Wiscoy Creek in Wyoming County. Scott Cornett, from the DEC’s Region 9 Allegany Office, along with Marie Schrecengost (USFWS) and 17 volunteers from our chapter and one from the Red House Brook Chapter worked from 9 a.m. until nearly 3 p.m. planting the trees. Fifty of the trees were “Liberty Elms” from the Elm Research Institute in Keene, N.H., who graciously provided them for free, just charging shipping, through a grant program they have set up with TU National. Last year, the program provided 100 trees to us under the same conditions. Last year’s trees seem to have all survived and are doing well wherever they have been planted during past projects along the Wiscoy. The rest of the trees came from the DEC’s nursery in Saratoga. About half were bare root silver and red maples, which typically have very high survival rates in our area. Generally speaking, 30% – 40% is considered a good survival rate, but the trees provided by the Saratoga Nursery have had almost 100% survival when we’ve planted them. Normally I don’t make references which could be deemed political in this forum; but, in this case, I’ll make an exception – regardless of what anyone may think of State government, this is one part of it where my personal opinion is that tax dollars and license money are well spent – along with the local DEC personnel. The rest of the trees were in individual pots and should survive very well. There were tamaracks, balsam fir, and sycamore – among others –, which should also have a near 100% survival rate.

On Thursday, May 12, I (Chuck) helped Scott with getting measurements which will enable us to compute just how much rock should be required at each site. Marie, along with another USFWS employee, two DEC seasonal employees, and Tom Piwowar of our chapter, worked for several hours to put tree tubes on the trees that would be most susceptible to damage from deer. More will be protected with tree tubes before this newsletter goes out.

Many thanks to Dave Unetich, Larry Sformo, Joe and Kevin Morgan, Matt Pavlick, Jim and Andy Stachowski, Gene Romanyshyn, Gary Coons, Tom Piwowar, Tom, Sydney, and Sierra Olszowy, and Gary Kottke of our chapter, and Ron Balicki of the Red House Brook Chapter, all of whom helped out with the planting.

Upcoming will be the shocking of the North Branch to help establish the baseline population for the creek, so we can later evaluate what effects our restoration efforts may have on the population of brown trout in the creek. This is planned for 6/21-6/24, at the moment, although we’re supposed to be shocking in Allegany State Park in support of the 2008 project the previous week. If conditions don’t allow that, then 6/21-6/24 will be used as backup dates. If any of the 6/21-6/24 dates need to be used in A.S.P., then the N. Branch shocking will take place later. Also, we will be starting the construction of the “lunkers” in late June/early July. We’ll need a lot of people to do this. Through the graciousness of the Wyoming County Fair people, we will be able to use one of their buildings, enabling us to construct in any weather and to store materials and tools in a secure site. We would ideally like to get 15 – 20 people to help on any given day, because, then, we can set up an assembly line type operation and will be far more efficient than if we have to build them one by one with a smaller crew. If anyone would like any information on what the lunkers look like, or pictures of their construction, please contact me, Chuck Godfrey, at [steelheader@roadrunner.com](mailto:steelheader@roadrunner.com). (Mr. Godfrey has provided this link to the Elm Research Institute, in case any municipality is interested in their offerings: <http://elmresearch.org/Liberty> Tree Memorial. php. Ed.)

- **Events for Kids – Dave Barus sends us the following announcement of upcoming youth oriented events:**

East Aurora Fish & Game “Teach-Me-To-Fish”, 6/4/2011 – A youth and family event; fishing derby, 10am -1pm, pond, includes free Sahlens hot dog lunch, fishing, free use of rods/reels, free bait, prizes; open to the public. For information, contact Dave Barus, 716-597-4081.

Erie Federation/ NYS – DEC Youth Fishing Clinic; Tifft Farms, 6/11/2011 – A youth and family event; 9:30am – 1pm, Tifft Nature Preserve, Lake Kirsty, Buffalo; 3 hour program, includes free Sahlens hot dog lunch, free use of rods/reels, free bait, free prizes, fishing; pre-registration required; open to the public. Call 716-851-7010 to register; Dave Barus (716-597-4081), for information.

Erie Federation/NYS-DEC Youth Fishing Clinic; Chestnut Ridge Park Lake, 6/25/2011 – A youth and family event; Route 240, Orchard Park; free Sahlens lunch, free use of rods/reels, free bait, free prizes, fishing, pre-registration required; open to the public. No license is required by anyone, resident or non-resident, 6/25 – 6/26. Call 716-652-4180 to register; Dave Barus (716-597-4081), for information.

- **Website:** Webmaster, **Rick Toczek**, reports that he has made some changes to the website and has added pages. If the site needs updating or if there are issues with it, please let him know.
- **Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ending April 30, 2011 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):**

BALANCE AT	APRIL 1, 2011	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$826.23
INFLOWS:	NONE		
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00
	BOND INSURANCE		\$100.00
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$170.00
BALANCE AT	APRIL 30, 2011		\$656.23
*****	*****	*****	*****
BALANCE AT	APRIL 1, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$17,130.40
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$1.41
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		
BALANCE AT	APRIL 30, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$17,131.81



## Articles

### The Love of the Steelhead

By Al Himmel

Where ever steelhead live, an angler can experience the most exciting fishing to be found in Western New York. The steelhead is really just a migratory rainbow trout, but the journey into and out of the lake makes the animal larger, more energetic, and more vigorous than the usual stream caught 'bow. Taking these fish on a fly is the ultimate conquest for the average stream fisherman, since the steelies tend to be a challenge in more ways than one. They are harder to locate, less inclined to take a fly, and definitely willing to run away from the angler at breakneck speeds.

Because the steelies tend to migrate up Cattaraugus creek in small pods, it is a lucky fisherman who finds a willing pod of feeding fish. The choice of fly is not as critical as is the case with the hatch feeding trout, but large streamers can be very productive.

One good spot is the area below Springville, near the first bridge. With luck, one will see rolling fish and have the location problem solved. One successful foray occurred when Tom Stamboulis directed me to the exact spot where he had had a great event the day before. His Success was my reward, too. I enjoyed every minute of it, even the part when an area resident witnessed my success and convinced me that, since I was in his backyard, I owed him a fish or, as it turned out, three. Such are the rewards of TU meetings.

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Trout in the Classroom: On April 25, 2011, Ms Rosemary Catlin and her students from Brockport High School their fish into Lake Ontario. Please see Chuck Godfrey's report, above. Here are some scenes from the great day.



Mrs. Catlin watches two students as they transfer the trout into pails before the fish are placed in a cooler.



Trout in the cooler, awaiting transport to Hamlin Beach State Park.



The class releases their trout into Lake Ontario.



Mrs. Catlin and her class after their successful trout release.

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