

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) November, 2009

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Stamp

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(This newsletter is an expanded version of that available in the print edition.)

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying begins at 6pm. Please bring orange thread, because we will be tying the Ausable Wulff.

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be Mr. Ray Markiewicz, Northeastern Regional Coordinator for Project Healing Waters. He will discuss this important project which can bring renewal and healing to our military veterans. Please join us.

President’s Report

Greetings fellow TUsers,

As Yogi Berra once said, “It ain’t over, ‘til it’s over”. He was talking about baseball; I’m referring to steelhead and brown trout runs on Lake Erie & Lake Ontario.

Of the encouraging news coming out of the Salmon River this year, news of a *wild* thirty pound Atlantic Salmon, caught & released, is the most significant. Thirty to forty pairs of Atlantic salmon had been spotted at last report.

Once again, our October meeting was graced with a highly educational and informative presentation by Senior Wildlife Biologist Connie Adams of Region 9 DEC. It is unfortunate that more of our members are not present at the meetings to glean the information that you, as sportsmen & women, pay for by purchasing sporting licenses.

Our annual financial report has been completed, as has the Chapter Effectiveness Index. I want to thank Tony Messina & Antoinette Grote for compiling and completing these all-important reports. Chapter re-chartering is based on the information contained within these documents.

Planning for the Youth Trout Experience, slated for July 18-24, 2010, is off the ground. I do hope to hear from the membership, nominating candidates for attendance to the week-long educational youth opportunity.

Trout in the Classroom is on track again this year at the Nichols School. Incredibly, the eggs have already hatched. Follow this link to stay up to date the program's happenings: scunningham@nicholsschool.org.

The NYS Council of Trout Unlimited meeting in Altmar was productive. Bryan Moore, Vice President of National TU Volunteer Ops, attended. The council members have resolved to oppose any Marcellus shale drilling until the watershed resources can be properly protected. The official resolution is forthcoming and will be published in its final form on our website.

Many of you have received mail from TU National concerning the Cold Water Conservation Fund. The CCF is TU's premier major donor giving club. By joining the CCF, you are helping to carry on the proud 50-year tradition of America's leading trout and salmon conservation organization. There are numerous special member benefits as thanks for your generous, annual \$1,000 commitment.

Our guest speaker for November will be Ray Markiewicz. He will be talking about Project Healing Waters. He is the Northeastern Regional Coordinator for Project Healing Waters.

Since we do not have a meeting in December, it was suggested, several years ago, that we have a social function complimenting the holiday season. So...with that in mind, once again we will be having a Christmas Party at the Donavan Post, on December 10, starting at 7pm. I would encourage you to come out and join us for the evening festivities. Bring a wrapped gift, valued at \$10, for the Yankee Swap. (Make sure it's a good one that you like; you might end up taking your own gift home). The party is free; and the Yankee Swap is, to say the least, entertaining. Please let us know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

See you at the meeting.

Please come out and support YOUR local chapter, become involved.

Gary Coons, WNYTU Chapter President.

Announcements

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:** First, a warm "thank you" to all who assisted with fly tying at the October meeting. This month, our focus will be the Ausable Wulff. See you there!

Shows: The next show will be in March. More information will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

Project Healing Waters: We will be fly-tying with the vets at the V.A. on November 12, 2009, December 3, 2009, and January 14, 2010, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Please let me know if you would like to help.

Annual Banquet: The next banquet will take place on March 27, 2010, at Lucarelli's Banquet Center. Our thanks to Century Printing for donating the printing of our Banquet and Grand Prize tickets again this year. Details for the Banquet are contained in the announcement at the end of this newsletter. Please try to attend; we need your support!

- **News from DEC:** Mr. Scott Cornett would like to remind those who participated in the Wiscoy Creek angler diary program to return their forms as soon as possible. DEC will only be accepting the diaries through the end of November. For those of you who may have missed the announcement, by Mr. Cornett and Mr. Zanett, in last month's newsletter, here it is: With the end of October, the NYSDEC Region 9 Fisheries office's angler diary program for Wiscoy Creek is ending. Anglers who have been keeping a diary are asked to return it to: James Zanett, NYSDEC, 182 East Union St #3, Allegany, NY 14706 as soon after your last trip in October as possible. Even if you have a diary, but did not fish the Wiscoy this year, please drop us a line ((716) 372-0645) to let us know that. Once the data have been analyzed, a summary of both the diary program and this past summer's electrofishing will be sent to all diarists and will be available at the DEC website. A summary will also be presented at the January, 2010, WNYTU meeting. Thanks for your help.
- **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.
- **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.)

- **WNY TU Treasurer's Report for the Period October 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009 (Submitted by Anthony Messina):**

BALANCE AT OCTOBER 1, 2009	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$693.29
INFLOWS: 50/50 DRAWING		\$53.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS	\$53.00
OUTFLOWS: 50/50 DRAWING PRIZE		\$27.00
MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$97.00
BALANCE AT OCTOBER 31, 2009	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$649.29

BALANCE AT OCTOBER 1, 2009	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$19,253.46
INFLOWS: INTEREST		\$1.64
OUTFLOWS: NONE		\$0.00
BALANCE AT OCTOBER 31, 2009	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$19,255.10

ALL FUNDS ON DEPOSIT AT BANK OF AMERICA

- **WNYTU Annual Report (Submitted by Treasurer, Anthony Messina):**

TOTAL
10/1/08 - 9/30/09

CHECKING ACCT - Bank of America	
BANK BALANCE - October 1, 2008	\$1,090.62
INFLOWS:	
DONATIONS	\$105.50
HOLIDAY PARTY RAFFLE	\$125.00
MONTHLY MTG. - 50/50 DRAWING	\$813.00
SHOWS	\$1,721.75
TU BOOKS	\$54.00
TU MERCHANDISE	\$5.00
TU REBATES	\$75.00
TU MEMBERSHIPS	\$17.50
TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$2,916.75
OUTFLOWS:	
DONATION	\$1,070.00

DUES	\$90.00
FLY TYING GROUP	\$261.53
HOLIDAY PARTY	\$292.97
INSURANCE	\$100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$105.95
TU MEMBERSHIPS	\$17.50
MONTHLY MTG. - ROOM RENTAL	\$600.00
MONTHLY MTG. - 50/50 PRIZE	\$409.00
NEWSLTR POSTAGE	\$1,246.40
NEWSLTR PRINTING	\$610.00
AWARDS	\$200.00
MEMBERSHIPS	\$50.00
SHOWS	\$434.74
STREAM PROJECTS	\$18.94
SUPPLIES	\$15.90
TRAVEL	\$721.15
WEBSITE REGISTRATION	\$20.00
 TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	 \$6,264.08
 BALANCE	 (\$3,347.33)
 TRANS FROM MONEY MKT	 \$2,950.00
 ADJ. BALANCE	 (\$397.33)
 BANK BALANCE - September 30, 2009	 \$693.29
 MONEY MKT ACCT - Bank of America	
BANK BALANCE - October 1, 2008	\$12,169.91
 INTEREST	 \$33.55
TRANSFER FROM BANQUET ACCT	\$10,000.00
 TRANS TO CHECKING ACCT	 (\$2,950.00)
 BANK BALANCE - September 30, 2009	 \$19,253.46
 BANQUET ACCT - Bank of America	
BANK BALANCE - October 1, 2008	\$4,060.73
 BANQUET	 \$12,408.00
TRANS TO MONEY ACCOUNT	(\$10,000.00)
BANK FEES (CREDIT CARD CHRGS)	(\$139.39)

BANQUET EXPENSE	(\$4,595.25)
ACCOUNT ACTIVITY FEES	(\$32.50)
 BANK BALANCE - September 30, 2009	 \$1,701.59

Report of Volunteer Hours:	
Conservation Projects	788
Fundraising	453
General Operations	551
Youth Education & Outreach	43
General Education & Outreach	103
Travel	676
 Total Volunteer Hours	 2614



Articles:

Editor's Note – Mr. Jay Lechner has advised me that “a very informal group” called “The Breakfast Club” is creating a newsletter based on *WNY Top Ten Trout Streams*, a book by Mr. Al Himmel, WNYTU's “writer in residence”. The new newsletter includes letters from Mr. Himmel about experiences on the streams as well as comments by others. Mr. Himmel sent me the following sample article (which is slightly edited). If you would like further information about The Breakfast Club's newsletter, you can contact Mr. Lechner at jaylech@hotmail.com.

OAK ORCHARD REVISTED

By
Al Himmel

Monday, 10/18/09, was a glorious tribute to the beauty of a sunshine-laden fall day; and a trip to Oak Orchard seemed in order. Of course, those of you who have made the trip are well aware of the sixty-three mile drive required to get to Waterport on Eagle Harbor Road. The easiest way to make the journey is to travel east on Route 104 to Eagle Harbor Road, then go north on Eagle Harbor until you come to the bridge in the middle of the town, (two stores). At that point you have a choice between paying a two dollar parking fee at the end of Park Avenue, where a long hike down to the stream is required, or proceeding across the bridge, turning right and then taking the next right down a dirt road until you see the sign, “Parking \$5.00”. For those of you slightly aged, this is the best bargain on the market. The parking is at water level, and the Archery Club also serves breakfast and lunch at very modest fees. So much for the accommodations.

This trip was all the more dramatic because the parking lot was almost a full house, but the stream was occupied sparsely. Most of the fishing enthusiasts had moved upstream to a narrow fast water sluice where monster three-year salmon were being taken amidst thunderous airborne, surface smashing, leaping breakoffs. I had three on that day, and each fish made three runs downstream before I was able to bring it within visible range. No wonder there

were cars from as far away as Denver, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. It has to be experienced to be appreciated.

Then there are the brown trout. Who could imagine a twenty-four inch, hooked jawed, brown trout in full spawning colors in such a tributary setting? There were many of them caught during my four hour stay; but rest assured that, although most of those were taken home by the visitors, there are still more to come. Soon, some steelhead-rainbows will begin to appear consistently. Unfortunately, the water yesterday was slightly colored, so it was hard to find visible fish; and no salmon redds were occupied. The word at the shelter was that the best is yet to come...See you there.

Editor's Note-On October 22, 2009, Ms. Sandy Cunningham, of the Nichols School, along with Mr. Chuck Godfrey, chairman of WNYTU's Trout in the Classroom committee, traveled to DEC's Randolph Hatchery. There they picked up two hundred brown trout eggs for the Nichols School 2009 – 2010 TIC program. (The eggs hatched between October 31 and November 1.) Mr. Godfrey has enclosed this photo essay which documents Ms. Cunningham's obtaining the eggs from Mr. Rich Berner at the DEC Hatchery and introducing them to their new home. To follow the story, you can go to www.nicholstrout.org.



Mr. Berner examines his charges.



There they are!



Ms. Cunningham seems pleased.



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