

# TROUT TALK

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

March 2008

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

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**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting** Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 7:30 pm at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Fly Tying will start at 6pm.** Please bring olive thread, because we will be tying the Olive Woolly Bugger.

The meeting will feature a talk by WNYTU member, **Craig Zink**, who will discuss "Geology and the Fisherman". Mr. Zink's presentation will include information about stream mechanics and slides illustrating the historical geology of WNY. Please join us!

## President's Report

First, I want to thank all of those who supported the banquet in any way. Your time, energy and money are truly appreciated and make our most important fundraiser of the year a success. Our chapter has over 600 members! How can we get even more of you, and non members as well, to join us for the evening?

FYI- WNYTU is supporting the DEC proposed Regulation changes. View them at [www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html).

Are you interested in becoming more involved in our stream restoration principles and practice? A NYSCTU Workshop will take place in Warrensburg, NY on **May 16-18**. This involves classroom and field training. Detailed

information for serious applicants can be obtained by contacting Chuck Godfrey at [steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net](mailto:steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net). This is an excellent workshop. (Ed. Note: Please see “Announcements”.)

Do you know a beginner fly fisherman between 13 and 19 yrs old? Enter him or her in the June Meeting “Yute” Raffle. A very nice equipment package will be awarded to two (possibly more) winners, who must be present to win!!(June 24th). Notify any Officer.

Please be sure to read about our upcoming involvement with **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.** This is an important venture for WNYTU, and we need many hands to make it a success. (Ed. Note: Please see “Announcements.”)

We have a lot of work to be done in the chapter and not enough active members. Won’t you step forward and help? If you have friends who do not get our e-mailed newsletter, have them give you their address. It will only be used for WNYTU chapter info.

Please join us at the next meeting, **March 25th**, when Craig Zink will inform us about "Geology and Fishermen"! The **April 29th** meeting will feature Sean Meegan, who will discuss the “NYSDOT McKinstry Creek Mitigation Project”.

Remember to come early and tie flies, or watch and shoot the breeze. Donated flies are always welcome!

## Announcements

- **WNYTU to Partner with FFF on Local Project (by Dee Maciejewski).** Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., initiated and conducted by members of FFF and TU, serves military personnel who have been wounded, injured or disabled, to aid in their recovery by introducing or rebuilding the skills of fly fishing and fly tying, and providing activities and fishing outings. These services are provided free to the participants, at DOD and DVA hospitals nationwide.

WNYTU is seeking committed volunteers to conduct the program at our local Veterans Hospital. If you can donate your time and skills- in any capacity, contact Len Bigaj or Gary Coons. Find their numbers on page one. We need people to coordinate, tie, cast and teach. All are encouraged to take part in this honorable and rewarding endeavor.

- **WNY Sport Travel Expo (by Len Bigaj).** The Expo was held March 6 – 9, 2008. Although there was some bad weather, we did well. We earned \$438.60, of which \$355.50 was from fly sales. Our thanks to Jim Zak, Chuck Godfrey, and Ray Kegler for helping to man our booth, to Bill Swartz, Jim Stachowski, and Dave Unetich for helping to tie with the kids on Sunday, and a special thanks to Gary Coons for working the booth every morning. Again, THANKS TO ALL.
- **State of Lake Erie Meeting.** New York Sea Grant’s annual “State of Lake Erie Meeting” will take place on Thursday, April 3, 2008, from 7:00 to 9:15pm, at the Armor Fire Hall, 4932 Clark Street, Hamburg, N.Y. Featured presentations include:
  - ✓ “Invasive Species in New York State: Who’s Minding the Store?”
  - ✓ “VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) Research Update”
  - ✓ “Lake Erie Warmwater Fish Update”
  - ✓ “Progress of Lake Trout Restoration in Lake Erie”
  - ✓ “Ballast Water Legislation & Asian Carp Barrier Update”

For more information, contact Helen Domske, NY Sea Grant (716) 645-3610 or email [sgbuffal@cornell.edu](mailto:sgbuffal@cornell.edu).

- **NYSCTU Workshop on Stream Restoration Principles and Practice.** This workshop will take place near Warrensburg, N.Y., from Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18. Please see details on page 6. Our Chuck Godfrey will be attending the program, and the WNYTU Board would like to send an additional person. If anyone is interested, he or she should contact Dee Maciejewski or Chuck Godfrey. (Contact information is on Page 1.)
- **Banquet Awards.** The following awards were presented at the WNYTU banquet, which was held on March 15, 2008. Congratulations to:
  - ✓ **Len Bigaj, “Shows and Streams”.**
  - ✓ **Tony Messina, “Decades of Service”.**
  - ✓ **Ray Kegler, “Cold Water Fisheries Enhancement”.**
  - ✓ **Joe Evans, “Good Friend of WNY Trout Unlimited”.**
  - ✓ **Chuck Godfrey, “Conservation Award”.**



Len Bigaj receives the “Shows and Streams” Award from Chapter President, Dee Maciejewski.



Tony Messina accepts his “Decades of Service Award”.



Ray Kegler is presented with the “Cold Water Fisheries Enhancement Award”.



Joe Evans displays his “Good Friend of WNY Trout Unlimited Award”.



Chuck Godfrey receives the “Conservation Award”.

- **WNY TU Members Honored.** The Erie County Federation of Sportsmen honored two Trout Unlimited members at their recent banquet. Dee Maciejewski received the Valerie E. Gannello Sportswoman of the Year Award and Chuck Godfrey received the President's Award. Congratulations to both! Here they are:



- **A Reminder:** Why you should attend TU meetings, buy 50-50 tickets, go to the banquet, etc.: There are plenty of reasons to support the local TU chapter, but here is one you may not know about. The fact is that, by and large, the activities of the local chapter are not financed by the national organization. The costs of the newsletter, our portion of most area stream and habitat restoration projects, etc., are funded almost entirely by the money raised at the meetings, the banquet, and the sale of flies at the county fair. Your dues go to the national organization, which only provides money to the local group under special circumstances. Without the money raised here, the local organization may not be able to exist.
- **Fishing Partner Connection.** For those of you who are seeking a partner with whom to fish, we will be running this announcement on a regular basis. If you would like to share your day on the water with someone, e-mail Editor Russell Shefrin at AdkRuss@roadrunner.com; and your contact information (name, telephone number, e-mail address) will be included in the newsletter. To get in touch with your partner, contact him or her directly. Currently interested: **Bill Swartz** (716-741-2563, [flytyer72001@yahoo.com](mailto:flytyer72001@yahoo.com)). **Larry Jakubowski** (716-684-9755, [jake14086@yahoo.com](mailto:jake14086@yahoo.com)). **Tom Kielb** (716-895-3760).
- **Stream Planting.** (by Chuck Godfrey) We have ordered a lot of bare root seedlings, willows and some riparian corridor plants, for planting on the Wiscoy (no-kill section) and for Oatka Creek just south of Warsaw. The Oatka section will be planted in conjunction with a massive stream bank protection effort initiated by the Wyoming County SWCD last summer and fall,

and should help not only to stabilize the bank in that area but also to add shade to the creek in an area that has potential for increased populations of wild trout. The headwaters and upstream sections of Oatka maintain healthy populations of wild trout. We expect the trees to come in late in April, for planting then and in early May.

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## **Articles**

(Editor's Note: This article, from the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited, was forwarded by Chuck Godfrey.)

### **NYSCTU WORKSHOP: STREAM RESTORATION PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE**

Helping TU volunteers promote the best possible care of our fragile trout waters is the primary goal of this weekend event hosted by NYSCTU's Resource Management Team. This workshop will focus upon applying river & fisheries science to define stream & fisheries problems & selecting and testing interventions.

This workshop will run Friday evening 7 PM 5/16, through 3PM Sunday afternoon 5/18 at the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Environmental Education Center at the Charles Lathrop Pack Demonstration Forest located on Rt. 9, 2 miles North of Warrensburg, NY. We would like to have up to 30 participants from as many TU chapters as possible. Working in teams, participants will apply learned skills under the guidance of experienced field/lab instructors. (Bring your fishing gear as you will have some time to wet a line in local streams.)

Classroom & Field Training will:

- 1) Review: river mechanics, bankfull principles & assessment methods
- 2) Examine stream processes using the Emriver stream simulator.
- 3) Explore the “Limiting Factor” concept in fisheries restoration
- 4) Examine geomorphic restoration principles and applications
- 5) Groups will be given real stream problems to tackle, propose interventions, construct model interventions and test them using the Emriver unit.

On site male & female bunkhouse lodging with showers is provided. (Sorry, no camping allowed.) All participants will need to bring a sleeping bag, towel and toiletries. Food will be catered to site as part of the \$45 participation fee that also includes instructional material. (\$90 for non TU participants). Suggested materials include: short boots, wet wading gear, note pad & pencil, small pocket calculator. Other materials will be provided either in advance as printable downloads, or at the workshop.

All participants will need to register in advance & send their \$45 (or \$90) fee payable to NYSCTU to: John Braico, 10 Ashley Place, Queensbury, NY 12804, 518 793-1135 Fax 798-9576 Email: [jbraico@aol.com](mailto:jbraico@aol.com) . Detailed information including travel directions will be sent to all registrants upon receipt of a completed registration with accompanying fee. Please note that we are limited to 30 participants (minimum of 10).