

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) February, 2011

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Stamp

Label

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

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying begins at 6pm. Please bring brown thread, because we will be tying Bivisibles.

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be Mr. Nick Pionessa of the Oak Orchard Fly Shop. Mr. Pionessa is an accomplished steelhead angler, and the insights he will share with us should prove valuable when the spring season begins. Please join us.

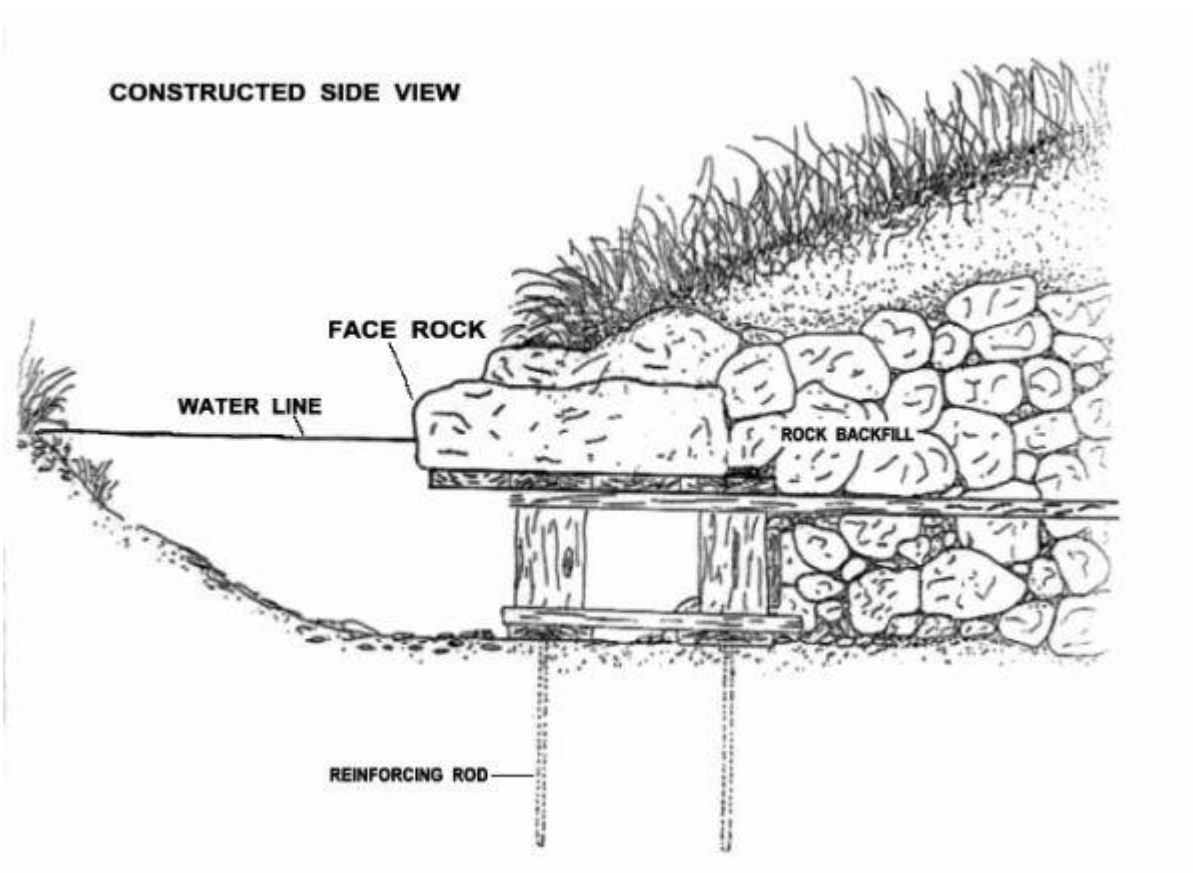
President’s Report

Greetings Fellow TUErs,

I want to thank Scott Cornett & Jim Zanett, from Region 9 DEC, for their highly informative, professional presentation, at our January Chapter Meeting, on the “state of our streams” and electro-shocking results. Scott had

much more information he could have shown us; but, in the interests of time, he had to shorten the presentation. If you missed the last meeting, you missed one of the best. We not only had fellow TU members present, but a fair amount of interested guests, as well. (Editor's Note: The DEC discussion included (1) results of 2010 projects, (2) the issue of Ischua Creek regulation changes, (3) projects for 2011, and (4) questions from the audience.)

Scott laid out "the plan" for the North Branch of the Wiscoy stream project. This will be a labor intensive project involving the building of wooden structures known as LUNKERS, which have been used very effectively in the Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, & Illinois Driftless Area to provide not only stream bank stabilization but "undercut" cover for trout. (See diagram, below.) The labor will not be in placing the structures. They are so large that they cannot effectively be moved without the assistance of heavy machinery. The man (or woman) power will be needed in the building of the LUNKERS themselves. The structures have to be preassembled at a remote location, in advance of placement, so that, when the stream work begins, the project can progress rapidly to completion. We are hoping to have a substantial corps of volunteers. Chuck Godfrey, steelheader@roadrunner.com, will be the point of contact for coordination of volunteers. You can find more information on the project at the NYSDEC website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/71959.html>. Visit www.wnytroutunlimited.org for details of similar projects and for a summary of electrofishing for volunteers & diarist programs provided to us by Scott Cornett.



February's guest speaker will be Nick Pionessa, an accomplished (professional) fly tier and steelhead angler, whom many of you know from the Oak Orchard Fly shop in Williamsville. As the spring steelhead season approaches, his presentation should prove beneficial to all in attendance.

This is the last opportunity to plug The Annual Fund Raising & Awards Banquet before we meet again. It will soon be upon us. Len Bigaj (see the flyer) has tickets available for both the raffle and the dinner. Please don't wait for the last minute to reserve your tickets. Planning the dinner is a vital part of this banquet, which is by far our biggest fund raiser of the year. This is also an appropriate time to recognize individuals for their contributions to the community and to the cold water resource. The award nominations deadline is March 13, 2011, the last day of the Sportsman Show. Submissions should be in e-mail form to Dave Tooke or me, although handwritten messages are also acceptable. Finally, a banquet chairman for next year's event is still being sought.

We are again part of the Erie Promotions Sportsman Show & Travel Expo this year. On Sunday, March 13, 2011, we are hosting a youth fly-tying activity from Noon to 4pm. Volunteers are needed to help with the staffing of the booth throughout the show as well as for the youth fly-tying. Last year's youth tying activity was a huge success which we hope to duplicate, if not to improve upon.

Our fly inventory is always in need of restocking. As many of you have heard, if you have a favorite fly you like to tie, whip up a few to benefit your chapter. The flies do not have to include the "old standbys", and those that "work" are better than the ones that catch the angler's eye.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lower Great Lakes Conservation Office, will be having two festivals this summer. The first is on June 4th, 2011, in Niagara Falls. The second will be in Buffalo, but the date is not yet available. WNYTU has been invited to participate in the festivals again this year. Anyone interested in representing our chapter at these events, should contact me. These are both one day events.

We still lack a chairman (and committee) for Membership and Trout in the Classroom as well as the Banquet. These vital chapter positions support not only the national Trout Unlimited organization but also benefit directly the membership, community, and resource we work so hard to protect. This organization needs your help. Come join us.

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.**

Shows: The next show is the W.N.Y. Sport and Travel Expo, which will take place March 10 through 13, 2011. If you would like to help with the booth, or with the March 13 (Sunday) fly tying with children, please let me know. I will have a sign-up sheet available at the January, 2011, chapter meeting. (Len)

Project Healing Waters: We had a great turn-out at the V.A. for our Christmas Patriot-Fly-in-an Ornament project. With the help of nine volunteers, we made twenty-two ornaments. I would like to thank

all of you who assisted. Future fly-tying sessions at the V.A. are scheduled for March 3, and April 14, 6 pm to 8 pm. If you would like to help, please let me know. (Len)

Annual Banquet: We are still looking for someone to serve as Banquet Chair for the 2012 event. The upcoming banquet (March 26, 2011; Lucarellis) will be my last as Chairperson. Our Banquet Committee is already hard at work and has obtained some great raffle items. This year, our Grand Prizes will be: 1st, a 16GB Apple iPad, and, 2nd, a 6ft 6inch, 2 wt Matrix Fly Rod and Reel. (And here's an exciting last minute item: Again this year, to help us raise funds, Judi Shelton and George Klemens will generously donate time at their wonderful home in Montana. This house provides ready access to truly world class fly-fishing.) Century Printing has once again donated the printing of our Banquet and Grand Prize tickets. The prize tickets are \$10.00 each, three tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will be held at the Banquet. Please try to attend. (If you can't make the Banquet, but would like to support TU, you can purchase prize tickets by sending a check to Leonard Bigaj, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna, N.Y. 14218. I will enter you in the drawing and will return the ticket stubs to you.) Tickets for the Banquet itself are \$30.00 each. (I have tickets for the Banquet and for the Grand Prize.) If you have any new or pre-loved items which you would like to donate to our Banquet, we will be happy to use them. (Ed. Note: Please see the Banquet announcement, later on in this newsletter.)

Chapter Meeting Fly-Tyers: Prior to the January WNYTU Chapter Meeting, Bill Koerner, David Bollman, Kevin O'Neill, Jeff Kohler, and Dave Unetich tied twenty-five assorted steelhead-style stoneflies for our fundraising events. (Submitted by Dave Unetich). Thanks to all.

- **News from DEC:** Mr. Scott Cornett of Region 9, DEC, sends the following message.
 1. "Summary reports of DEC stream work and diary programs conducted in 2010 are now available (along with older surveys) at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27272.html>.
 2. DEC Region 9 Fisheries is planning to conduct an angler use study and electrofishing surveys in 2011 – 2013, on East Koy Creek, to evaluate the trout stocking program there. This is part of a statewide study of our trout stocking program, designed to bring it up to date with changes that have occurred, in the last 25 years, in angler use, catch and release rates, and stocked trout survival. As part of this program, we will be marking all the trout that are stocked with various fin clips (combinations of adipose and ventral fins). This will help the field technician tell wild from hatchery fish and separate fish by stocking increment. (East Koy Creek gets three of these each year.) We are aware that some individuals in the past have been doing their own "experiments" by clipping the adipose fin on trout they catch and release. While we do not condone this in general, we especially ask that anglers not do this in 2011 – 2013, as it may negatively bias the results of our survey work. We appreciate your cooperation. "

- **A Message from Mr. Ron Urban:** "I have just learned of the passing of Sylvester Nemes. No, he was not very well-known as a famous Catskill fly tier, but he was, pretty much, responsible for the reintroduction of the soft-hackle to the fly tiers of the USA. While I never met the man, I felt I knew him through his writings and a couple of his books I have, which now become a great legacy to the world of fly fishing and tying. He'll be greatly missed. Sylvester Nemes of Bozeman passed away at his home with his wife, Hazel Nemes, at his side at 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011."

• **Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2010 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):**

BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2011	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$635.34
INFLOWS:			
	50/50 DRAWING		\$130.00
		TOTAL INFLOWS	\$130.00
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00
	NEWSLETTER POSTAGE		\$220.00
	NEWSLETTER PRINTING		\$146.40
	50/50 DRAWING		\$65.00
	DONATIONS		\$95.00
	DUES		\$90.00
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$686.40
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2011		\$78.94

BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$18,026.01
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$1.53
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$18,027.54

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**WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER
TROUT UNLIMITED
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET**

Saturday, March 26, 2011

LUCARELLI'S BANQUET CENTER

1830 Abbott Rd

Lackawanna, NY 14218

716-824-8711

TICKETS \$30.00/PERSON

8 OR MORE TICKETS RESERVES A TABLE

- 6:00 PM CASH BAR/COCKTAIL HOUR
- 7:00 PM BUFFET STYLE DINNER
 - DOOR PRIZES
- SILENT & VERBAL AUCTIONS
 - BUCKET RAFFLES
 - OTHER SPECIAL RAFFLES

FOR TICKET INFO CONTACT:

LEN BIGAJ

58 BALEN DRIVE

LACKAWANNA, NY 14218

716-826-4178

***ALSO AT OAK ORCHARD FLY SHOP AND ORVIS SHOP AT EASTERN
HILLS MALL***