

TROUT TALK

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

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Stamp

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying begins at 6 p.m. Please bring orange or red thread, because we will be tying Sucker Spawn.

Although there will be no featured speaker for the “entertainment” portion of the June meeting, there will be a screening of the film, “The Way of the Trout”. Please join us.

President’s Report

Greetings Fellow TUers,

I want to thank our speaker at the May chapter meeting, Larry Robinson, who presented us with a very educational Power Point program on Casting for Recovery, a support program for those battling breast cancer. Casting for Recovery includes fly-fishing retreats which employ the passion and solace provided by an afternoon on a trout stream to help women in their fight with this terrible disease. With the help of donations and volunteerism, there is hope that western New York will be able to have a local retreat. Thanks again, Larry.

As I sit here looking at my agenda notes and contemplating what fellow TUErs will find interesting and informative, I always look back over my newsletter archive from the same month in the previous year. We've seen so many changes since last spring. And I'm not just talking about the fisheries we love to angle. (I thought I saw my neighbor gathering lumber to build an ark.)

Many of you have been following the TIC program about which Chairman Chuck Godfrey will be reporting in more detail. The enthusiasm of both teachers and students renews my faith in the educational process where the "hands on" approach is invaluable.

Thursday evening, representatives from area sportsmen's and conservation clubs gathered in Varysburg, N.Y., by invitation from Sen. Patrick Gallivan's office. At the first of what is planned to be regularly scheduled meetings, I was encouraged to see the legislative process at work. Concerns that I have conveyed in the past about cold water resource protection turned out to be not only those of Trout Unlimited. I saw several other organizations voice points of view that parallel, or at least head the same direction of, our mission.

Once again, Chuck will be reporting on the North Branch of the Wiscoy "lunker" project. As mentioned previously, this will be a labor intensive venture in which many hands will make lighter work for all.

Please mark your calendars for August 10th thru the 21st, because the need for volunteers in the Erie County Fair booth in the Conservation Building isn't far away. I'm hoping we can get enough volunteers so that the booth can be staffed by two people, at least for most of the day. Days on which two volunteers are present allow for a casting clinic outside the building. Last year, passers-by who had not contemplated fly casting found themselves intrigued...and involved. Well worth the effort. Contact Len Bigaj.

The next meeting will be our last before we take our customary summer hiatus. Our June meeting will not have a guest speaker, unless you count the narrative voice present on "The Way of a Trout". This 1969 film was donated to Trout Unlimited by its creator, James Wilkie. For those unfamiliar, it is a fascinating foray into the trout's world and was one of the first films to advocate catch and release angling. Come out and join us. It will be a picnic atmosphere. Watch the movie, have a hotdog, (and some homemade beer brats), salad, non-alcoholic beverages, all provided by the chapter. If you care to bring something, such as a dessert, brownies, or cookies, these are always favorite finger foods. Please e-mail or call me with a head count and intentions.

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 Wednesday, June 29; Wednesday, July 20; Tuesday, August 9; Wednesday, September 7; and Thursday, September, 29. If you would like to help out, please let me know. (Len)

- **News from DEC: Mr. Scott Cornett** of Region 9, DEC, has requested that those who have access to dry seeds of Silver Maple and/or Red Maple (not Sugar or Norway Maple) trees collect them for use in re-forestation of the banks of the North Branch of the Wiscoy. Because the newsletter may come out a little late in the year for that project, the full text of Mr. Cornett's announcement was distributed to our electronic mailing list a couple of weeks ago. If you would like a copy of Mr. Cornett's message, please e-mail me, Russ Shefrin, at adkruss@roadrunner.com. (In his note, Mr. Cornett suggests that people who have the above seeds should contact Mr. Chuck Godfrey, Stream Projects Chairman for WNYTU.)
- **Trout in the Classroom Update – A Report by Chuck Godfrey:** On May 10, I (Chuck) traveled to Springville to make a presentation to the class that had been involved in the Trout in the Class room project there. My topic was trout in the USA. On May 17, teacher Michelle Wagner, along with 11 students traveled to Hake Rd. in Yorkshire to release their fish in Cattaraugus Creek. Despite some ammonia problems in the tank during the year, which affected the survival rate of the trout, the project was considered highly successful; because it helped to educate the students in many facets biology.
On May 26, Gary Coons assisted teachers Sandy Cunningham and Deborah Howe of the Nichols Middle School, along with several of Sandy's students, in releasing the trout which had been raised at Nichols this year under TU's Trout in the Classroom program. This is Sandy's third year in the program. She pioneered it in the Buffalo area, with our chapter, two years ago. She has done an incredible job with the program at Nichols, partnering with other teachers to make it a cross curriculum project. Last year, she teamed with an English teacher to have students write scientific journals and poetry about the trout. This year, she partnered with an art teacher to have students make paintings and comics. Here is a link to this year's program. Please take a few moments to look at it. (You need to hold down the "ctrl" key to get to the site. Then, a licensing message comes up. Just click on "OK". They're working on changing that: <http://nicholsnet.nicholsschool.org/teachers/tmaynor/trout/home.htm>. Additionally, Sandy and her class were featured in a recent (6/5) segment on local T.V.news. Here is that link: [Nichols-School-Students-Take-Their-Classroom-Outdoors](#) . If anyone thinks that a teacher at a school in our area might be interested in the program, please have him or her contact me, Chuck Godfrey, at 440-6995 or steelheader@roadrunner.com. We presently have four schools involved in the program: The Nichols Middle School, Frontier Middle School, Springville-Griffith Institute, and Brockport High School. We would certainly like to add more to the program and can help out with some of the expense, both through our own funds and with money available from our TU State Council. There is one chapter in the state that has nearly 40 schools enrolled in the program. (Ed. Note: Photos of the Springville-Griffith Institute and the Nichols School trout releases can be found later in this newsletter.)

- North Branch, Wiscoy Creek – A Report by Chuck Godfrey:** The project to increase the habitat for adult trout on the North Branch of Wiscoy Creek is underway. As reported in the May newsletter, a large group of people planted over 1000 trees on May 7th. I inadvertently left off the names of Al Rosinski and Daniel Yoder from the list of volunteers. Since then, the DEC and USFWS, assisted by TU volunteers, have removed alders and other streamside brush from the areas where the lunkers will be placed. On June 8, Scott Cornett of DEC Region 9 Fisheries, Marie Schrecengost and Alex Wilson of USFWS, Justin Schoff of the Wyoming County SWCD, and Chuck Godfrey staged lumber for the upcoming lunker construction and built three of the devices. On June 9, Scott and retired DEC Fisheries Biologist Joe Evans picked up more supplies for the project and built another two lunkers. (Ed. Note: Photos are available later in this newsletter.)

By the time you read this report, we will have held our first work party to construct lunkers (June 18) and will have another construction day scheduled for June 25. We also will have electro-shocked (weather permitting) the North Branch to continue assess the fish population before and after the project. By the end of the second construction day, we hope to have all 57 of this year’s lunkers built and will be planning on when to place them in the stream. Anyone who is interested in helping with any aspect of this project and who has not already contacted Chuck should do so at 440- 6995 or at steelheader@roadrunner.com . Those who are currently signed up are being kept informed, separately, of developments and plans by emails. (Ed. Note: At the June chapter meeting, Mr. Godfrey may share with us the proper way to refuel a chain saw. Then again, maybe not!)

- Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ending May 31, 2011 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):**

BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2011	(CHECKING ACCT)	\$656.23
INFLOWS:	NONE		
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00
	MEMBERSHIP		\$50.00
	STREAM PROJECTS		\$173.74
	DONATION		\$300.00
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$593.74

BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2011		\$62.49
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BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$17,131.81
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$1.94
	TRANSFER FROM BANQUET ACCOUNT		\$8,000.00

OUTFLOWS: NONE

BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$25,133.75
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Articles:

My Spaces

By Russell Shefrin

For many years, when I would drive back to Western New York from my native northern Adirondacks, it would be somewhere between Syracuse and Rochester that I would begin to recover from a feeling of sadness and nostalgia. A kind of homesickness is what it was, a longing to return to the mountains, ponds, and forests where I grew up. That experience was a manifestation of what geographers call a “sense of place”, what environmental psychologists term “place attachment”. Defined as the positive emotional bond that develops between a person and the environment, place attachment may play a role in the willingness to engage in pro-environmental behaviors. It is, therefore, a subject of great importance to those who value conservation. This is an area of research; but I would not be surprised if studies eventually show that those with who identify with the natural world of a particular area are more highly motivated to conserve it.



Following my most recent Adirondack venture, earlier this year, I was surprised to discover that, during the return to my adopted home in Western New York, my customary nostalgia had lifted as far east as Utica. Indeed, I found myself looking forward to some spring and summer experiences in the outdoors of our area. It occurred to me that, while I had not lost my love for the Adirondacks, I had developed a deepening attachment to the geography of Western New York. How had that happened and why had it taken so long? The answer lies, I believe, partly in fly-fishing, a pursuit which I took up only later in life but which has become a favorite medium of mine for experiencing the outdoors. One way to develop a sense of place, especially to its wild spaces, is to experience them directly. You can read about nature, watch outdoor films on TV, or view it from the window of a car; but, for my money, to



really develop a bond with the natural world, you have to get out there, to be a part of it, and to observe it closely. For me, fly-fishing has been a ticket to that world.

And it works both ways. Not only has my new-found identification with Western New York wild spaces made it easier to leave my native Adirondacks and to return here, but it inspires me to do what I can to protect those spaces. Undoubtedly, the same thing happens to others. Maybe that is one reason I am glad to see so many programs, such as conservation camps, “teach a kid to fish” days, Trout in the Classroom, Casting for Recovery, and Project Healing Waters, which spread the word about the recreational and restorative value of nature. Not only do these experiences benefit their participants; but, in so doing, they hopefully enhance identification with the natural world. That process may, in turn, may create even more enthusiasm for protecting nature. A win-win solution, to be sure.

(First Photo: Black Pond, Franklin County, N. Y.; Second Photo: Hosmer Brook, Erie County, N.Y.)

Photo Essays:

Trout in the Classroom Update

(Submitted by Mr. Chuck Godfrey)

Michelle Wagner and her students from Springville-Griffith Institute release their carefully reared charges into Cattaraugus Creek, May 17, 2011:





On the following page are some views of the Nichols School trout release on May 26, made possible by the hard work of Ms. Sandy Cunningham, Ms. Deborah Howe and their students.



This trout has become very pale. Perhaps it acclimated to the white surface of the cooler, or it may have become stressed.



Students prepare to release the trout.



The trout are released.

“Lunkers” for the North Branch of the Wiscoy

(A Report by Mr. Chuck Godfrey)



(L to R) Scott Cornett, Marie Schrecengost, and Alex Wilson load lumber into Chuck’s truck before the materials are staged throughout the Pike fairgrounds building preparatory to “lunker” construction.



Alex, Scott, Marie, and Justin Schoff put the finishing touches on a “lunker”.



A finished “lunker”. The long boards will be placed under the bank, perpendicular to the direction of the stream flow. The “box” section will be under water and is intended to provide depth and overhead cover in the stream. At each project site, several of these structures are situated next to each other in order to create one long tunnel of overhead cover.

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