

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited

September 2007

OFFICERS

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2711 Girdle Road, Elma, NY 14059 (655-1331) dryfly@adelphia.net

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33 Deveraux, Buffalo, NY 14214 (832-8517) amessina@hotmail.com

COMMITTEES

Awards-**Ed Luba** (648-9732)

Education-**Greg Waild** gresdell@adelphia.net

Library-**Nick Pionessa** (683-1873)

Membership-**Larry Bolster** (688-5836)

Fly tying sessions-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

Resource protection-**Gary Coons** (695-1003)

Salmon & Steelhead-**Don Kwiatkowski** (894-9807) & **Nick Pionessa**

Shows-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

Spring Banquet-**Jason Czora** (875-4754) **Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

Stream Clean-ups-**Chuck Godfrey** (675-0057)

Sunshine-**Dee Maciejewski** (655-1331)

Website: Ric Toczek webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org

Welcome-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

Video Library-**Jim Zak** (894-7301)

Erie County Federation Reps:

Chuck Godfrey (675-0057) steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net

State Council Delegates:

Chuck Godfrey (675-0057)

Gene Romanyshyn (627-2888)

Newsletter: **Vince Tobia**

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Stamp

Label

President's Report

Welcome back WNYTU members. If we haven't seen you at a Last-Tuesday-Of-The-Month meeting, I hope you will change that starting with September 25th. **Nick Pionessa**, Co- Chair of the Salmon Steelhead Committee, (would that make him the Coho Chair?) will get those Fall fishing juices flowing with "**Getting Ready for Steelies: Methods and Tactics.**" Please don't miss it! Bring a buddy!

Nominations for Officers and three (3) Board positions will end at this meeting. So get your nominations to the committee Chair, **Paul Maciejewski**, soon. (655-1331 or dryfly@roadrunner.net). Elections will be at the October 30th meeting, and there will be NO printed newsletter in October.

Time to get raffle tickets for a chance at winning gift certificates from local sport and fishing shops is fast running out! Call **Len Bigaj**, (826-4178 or lb@peoplepc.com) or get tickets at the September meeting. The drawing will be held at the October Meeting and there will be no PRINTED newsletter in October.

Thanks to **Len Bigaj**, Show and Banquet Chair and his team of volunteers for another banner year at the Erie County Fair. Be sure to read his report, and thank him in person for his enthusiasm and hard work in supporting this chapter. There are many behind-the-scenes volunteers who help him make this a successful, yearly PR and fund raising effort.

Thanks to **Chuck Godfrey**, stream Project Chair, and his diehard group of tree trimmers for sprucing up our beloved Koy Creeks. If you have suggestions for future summer projects, Chuck would be glad to hear from you. (675-0057 or steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net)

We will maintain our commitment to highway clean-ups next year. Chuck is looking for someone to take over chairing this program, and would give you all the help and information you would need. Won't YOU step forward to continue this worthwhile chapter work??

Do you know a teen, (age 13-19), who is just starting out in fly fishing? Enter him or her in a drawing set to be held at the June '08 meeting. **C.D. Arrick**, a member from many years ago, has donated a wonderful assortment of fly fishing gear that he wished to end up in the hands of a young person who is new to the art and passion that is fly fishing. There will be several winners. Get names to any officer of the chapter.

If you want to tie flies, come at 6PM on meeting night. We always accept your donated flies. They sell very well, bringing funds for the chapter projects. Bring a friend and be an active TU member. **Dee Maciejewski--President**

Whispering Pines Fish Farm

POND STOCKING

Trout, Bass, Perch, Minnows

Grass Carp, Koi, Crayfish

496-7440

WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, September 25, 2007, 7:30 pm at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Nick Pionessa**, fly fisherman, photographer, fly tyer and manager of Oak Orchard Fly Shop, will speak to us about **fly fishing for fall lake run trout and salmon**. **Fly Tying will start at 6PM** Please bring black thread as we are tying Black Bead Head Woolly buggers.

Information on Small Dams Wanted!

Researchers at Buffalo State College are in the process of creating an inventory of dams in Western New York and they need your help. The inventory, along with input from the public, will be used to identify local dams that have high potential for removal. The goals of dam removal would be restoration of natural flow conditions in streams and fish passage. If you know of any dams, especially small (< 6 ft high) dams, in this region please email (frothikm@buffalostate.edu) or call (716 878-6736) **Kelly Frothingham** at Buffalo State. We're looking for a brief description of where the dam is, for example, the name of the stream and a major road intersection up and/or downstream of the dam.

Fishing Partner Connection

We are starting a new column for those looking for a fishing partner: **Fishing Buddy Wanted**. If you'd like to share your day on the water with someone, e-mail Editor **Vince Tobia @ vtobia@aol.com**. He will put your contact info in the newsletter. To get in touch with your partner, contact them directly. Include your name, telephone #, and e-mail address.

Bill Swartz 716-741-2563

Larry Jakubowski 716-684-9755

Tom Kielb 716-895-3760

flytyer72001@yahoo.com

jake14086@yahoo.com

Fly Tying, Festivals & County Fair Dates

Erie County Fair First I would like to thank my wife **Linda** and my daughter **Peg** for their hard work making and setting up our booth decorations. We won first place for the best booth in the local affiliate of a National Organization and we tied for 1st place in the Local Sportsman Club Division. The booth won \$150 and a Blue Ribbon for their effort. Thanks to all our volunteers that gave of their time to man our booth; **Jim Stachowski, Gary Coons, Ray Kegler, Don Kwiatkowski, Gene Romanyshyn, Jim Zak, Greg Waild, Dave Unetich, Paul and Dee Maciejewski, Larry Bolster**. Without you we would not be so successful at this function. We **earned \$1,077.00** in booth sales and **\$150.00 for booth decorations**, for a **total of \$1227.00**, of which \$730.00 was in fly sales. Thanks to all fly tiers. I have turned in next years contract for 2008 Fair which runs from 8-6-08 to 8-17-08.

Thanks to all **Len**

W.N.Y. Sports and Travel Show will run from March 6th to 9th, 2008. If you would like to work the booth, please let me know. **Len**

Fly Tying As you know we sold a lot of flies at the Fair. So we have our work cut out for us to refill our supply before the March Show. At the September Meeting, bring black thread as we'll be tying black bead head woolly buggers starting at 6 p.m. Thanks to **Rick Macoy** for tying and donating two dozen bead head caddis nymphs. If you would like to contribute, you can tie your favorite patterns at home and bring them to a meeting or mail them to me and I will be glad to replace hooks and materials. Thank you. **Len Bigaj** 58 Balen Drive Lackawanna, NY 14218.

We Need Good People

It's nomination time again. We are again looking for dedicated, interested people to run for office. Yes, it will mean a required additional board meeting per month and other responsibilities, but you will be doing a great service for the resource that we all love so much. If you wish to nominate someone, or yourself, for any of the offices, please email me, or nominate them at the meeting.

The September meeting is the deadline for nominations for Officers (4) and three Board Members. No Nominations can be made after this meeting. Elections will be at the October meeting.

Paul Maciejewski

Trout Talk Advertising Rates

| | <u>1 issue</u> | <u>9 issues and website (25% discount)</u> |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| full page | \$160 | \$600 |
| half page | \$80 | \$300 |
| 1/4 page | \$40 | \$150 |
| 1/8 page | \$20 | \$75 |

A Slippery, Stubborn Invader

Invasive algae with the unappealing nickname of "rock snot" has turned up in a world-renowned trout stream that runs through Washington County, possibly carried there on the wading boots of an angler. State wildlife officials said Tuesday that *Didymosphenia geminata* -- a woolly-textured brown algae that has overrun streams in New Zealand since arriving in 2004 -- is in the Batten Kill near the Route 22 bridge south of Salem.

It is not possible to eradicate rock snot, and officials, conservationists and anglers agree anyone using the Batten Kill and other water bodies should stop the spread by cleaning boots, boats and other gear after leaving the water.

Once in a creek, the algae grips rocks along the bottom, growing into thick, smothering mats that eliminate fly larvae and other small invertebrates eaten by trout and other fish. The growths, which can reach up to a foot thick, also can cover fish spawning grounds.

Last month, the algae was found in the White and Connecticut rivers in Vermont and New Hampshire, after already contaminating rivers in Arkansas, Tennessee, South Dakota and Montana, as well as British Columbia and Poland. Believed to be native to far northern regions of Europe and Asia, the algae has been on the move into warmer, more nutrient-rich water. The algae likely got into the Batten Kill from felt-soled wading boots worn by a fisherman who came from tainted water elsewhere.

Didymo is a single-celled micro-organism that can spread from one river or lake to another by the movement of water, equipment, clothing and any other damp item. People and their activities are the main cause of spread. To ensure you don't spread didymo or other aquatic pests, wherever possible restrict equipment, boats, clothing and other items for exclusive use in a single waterway between cleaning.

If you are moving items between waterways, you must **Check, Clean, Dry**.

CHECK: Before you leave a river or lake, check items and leave debris at site. If you find any later, treat and put in rubbish. Do not wash down drains.

CLEAN: There are several ways to kill didymo. Choose the most practical treatment for your situation which will not adversely affect your gear

* **Non-absorbent items**

* Detergent: soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in 5% dishwashing detergent or nappy cleaner (two large cups or 500 mls with water added to make 10 litres); OR

* Bleach: soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in 2% household bleach (one small cup or 200 mls with water added to make 10 litres); OR

* Hot water: soak for at least one minute in very hot water kept above 60 °C (hotter than most tap water) or for at least 20 minutes in hot water kept above 45 °C (uncomfortable to touch).

* **Absorbent items require longer soaking times to allow thorough saturation.**

For example, felt-soled waders require:

* Hot water: soak for at least 40 minutes in hot water kept above 45 °C; OR

* Hot water plus detergent: soak for 30 minutes in hot water kept above 45 °C containing 5% dishwashing detergent or nappy cleaner; OR

* Freezing any item until solid will also kill didymo.

DRY: Drying will kill didymo, but slightly moist didymo can survive for months. To ensure didymo cells are dead by drying, the item must be completely dry to the touch, inside and out, then left dry for at least another 48 hours before use.

If cleaning or drying is not practical, restrict equipment to a single waterway.

NOTE: The thicker and denser the absorbent material, the better it will be at holding moisture (and live cells), the slower it will be to dry out and the more difficult it will be to soak completely with cleaning solutions.

When cleaning gear, we recommend that you:

* Soak absorbent items for longer than specified to ensure thorough saturation of the material with the cleaning agent

* Follow manufacturer's safety instructions when using cleaning products

* Dispose of cleaning waste well away from waterways.

ZOAR VALLEY UNIQUE AREA DEDICATED TO THE STATE PRESERVE

Nearly 1,500 Acres in Erie and Cattaraugus Counties to be Protected

A bill that will provide long-term protection of the irreplaceable natural and scenic resources in the Zoar Valley Unique Area was signed by Governor Eliot Spitzer on July 3, 2007. The new law dedicates the Zoar Valley Unique Area to the State Nature and Historical Preserve. The purpose of the Preserve is to protect lands outside of the state's Forest Preserves that are of special natural beauty, wilderness character, or geological, ecological or historical significance.

By signing this law, the Governor ensures that the land dedicated to the Preserve may not be sold, leased or exchanged except by law enacted by two successive sessions of the state Legislature. Management of the Unique Area will include passive recreational uses such as hiking, bird watching, fishing, rafting and kayaking.

Senator Catharine Young, sponsor of the legislation in the Senate, said, "Zoar Valley's wild beauty makes it an awe-inspiring, unique treasure that must be protected. Public input was key to making the decision to ensure that the natural resources of Zoar Valley will not be spoiled. DEC did a terrific job in crafting the Unit Management Plan and I appreciate Governor Spitzer's support."

The Zoar Valley Unique Area is a 1,492-acre property located southeast of Gowanda, spanning the borders of Erie and Cattaraugus counties, that is the "protection area" within the larger Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area. The Zoar Valley Unique Area includes miles of tributary gorges, carved by the Cattaraugus Creek following the retreat of the last glaciers. The cliff-like sides of the gorge range from 100 to 500 feet in height, making this property a very popular tourist destination. Cattaraugus Creek supports both wild and stocked populations of steelhead trout, which are valued by the region's anglers. The New York Natural Heritage Program has identified four endangered and two threatened plant species within the gorge, along with numerous additional species of special concern. In recent years, there have been numerous sightings of bald eagles in the gorge, leading to speculation that there may be active nests on the property.

The fertile soils in the bottom of the gorge support one of the most notable forests in the state. Tulip poplar, sugar maple, slippery elm, American sycamore, black walnut, cottonwood, red oak, bitternut hickory, yellow birch, and white ash trees have been known as being the tallest trees of their species in New York State. A 128-foot tall basswood in the Zoar Valley Unique Area is considered the tallest tree of its kind in the world.

2007 WNYTU Fundraising Raffle

Help out our local chapter raise \$ for local stream projects

Gift Certificate Prizes

- Oak Orchard Fly Shop \$150**
- Buffalo Outfitters Fly Shop \$150**
- Orvis Corporate Store \$150**
- Gander Mountain \$100**
- Dick's Sporting Goods \$100**

Drawing to be held on October 30, 2007 at the WNYTU general meeting

Winners will have their choice of gift certificates

Tickets are \$5 each, or three for \$10

Only 600 tickets will be sold

**For tickets send donation to Len Bigaj, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna NY
14218 or call 826-4178**