

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) April, 2013

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 30, 2013, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying starts at 6 p.m. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying the Egg Sucking Leech.

Our guest, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be Ms. Sandy Cunningham of The Nichols Middle School. She will conduct a Power Point discussion of her school’s participation in the Trout in the Classroom program. Ms. Cunningham is a terrific speaker, and her presentation promises to be highly informative. Our Stream Projects Chairman, Mr. Chuck Godfrey, suggests that anyone who has a child or grandchild in school, and who believes that there is a possibility his or her teacher might be interested in TIC, should invite the teacher to join us. See you there!

President’s Report:

Thank you to Bill Jedlicka and his family for making this year’s banquet a success! It was a wonderful evening, filled with opportunities to share information with members from far and wide, to have a great meal, and a chance to win an amazing array of prizes. Congratulations to this year’s award winners: Michael Wilkinson, Jim Zanett, and the NYSDEC Region 9 Seasonal Fisheries Technicians.

Please come and join us for a tree planting on April 28, 2013, at 9:30 AM in Wyoming County. Further information can be found in this newsletter.

Sandy Cunningham, of the Nichols Middle School, will be giving a presentation about her participation in the Trout in the Classroom Program. If you know of any teachers who might be interested in running this program at their schools, please invite them to attend the meeting on April 30, 2013.

Antoinette Grote, Chapter President.

Announcements

- **A Report from Mr. Len Bigaj:**

Shows: The next show will be the Erie County Fair in August. I have a meeting with the Conservation Building Booth Chairman this month and will provide you with more details when I receive them.

Project Healing Waters: I am still awaiting the dates for the Elma Conservation Club and will contact you when they are available. We spent a recent weekend at the Delaware River Club for a “Train the Trainer Seminar”. We learned a lot and had a chance to meet a number of other program leads from around the country. (Unfortunately, the fishing was bad. The water and the weather were cold, rain was falling, and the water was high!) Len.

- **From Stream Projects Committee Chairman, Mr. Chuck Godfrey:**

Tree Planting: On Sunday April 28, the WNYTU chapter will conduct a planting of trees and live stakes in Wyoming County. Please meet at 9:30 a.m. First we will be planting some bare root seedlings, black willow live stakes, and elm trees on areas of the Catch and Release section of Wiscoy Creek downstream of Hillside Rd. We will meet at the DEC parking site at the upstream end of the section. This is just east of Rt. 372 on Rt. 39. Most of us will need to park on the road shoulder, as this parking area is rather small. Please be very careful. We will be planting these trees in areas which would benefit from some large shade trees in the future. Then we will proceed to the North Branch of Wiscoy Creek to our 2011 project site on Rt. 372 to do the same type of plantings. All plantings will be protected with tree tubes and stakes. Because there are 250 trees to plant, we can use as much help as possible. I anticipate that we will probably need to work both in the morning and the afternoon, but anyone is welcome to come for as long or short a period of time as is practical. Hip boots would be a good idea, because we will probably need to cross the creeks at both sites, but neither creek is very deep where we'll be working. We will supply lunch as usual on our projects. We'll have several different types of breads and coldcuts for sandwiches, condiments, chips, and probably cookies. If people plan on attending, could you please let me, Chuck Godfrey, know – if you can't let me know, it's okay – as we want to be sure to have enough food to feed everyone. We generally plan on doing this rain or shine; but if there is truly awful weather, we might have to postpone. My cellphone number is 440-6995 if anyone needs to check that morning or anytime the previous day. Contact me if anyone needs directions to either site. My email is steelheader@roadrunner.com Hope to see you there.

Chuck Godfrey

Trout in the Classroom: On Monday, March 25, the fry from Brockport's Trout in the Classroom project were released at Hamlin Beach State Park. Mrs. Catlin, the teacher involved, and her class(es) managed to raise over 90 young brown trout from their original stock of 100 eggs. This is a phenomenal success rate. The water was a little rough due to sustained north winds, but we found a relatively calm spot next to a rocky outcropping that jutted into the lake. I (Chuck) made a short presentation on trout, char,

salmon and their backgrounds and habits to two of her classes. (Ed. Note: Pictures can be found in the Photo Section of this newsletter.)

The Newfane fish will be released on April 25th.

Meanwhile, the Frontier fish were released ahead of schedule, in Eighteen Mile Creek (Hamburg), on April 15, due to some unexpected mortality issues.

DEC Youth Education: The DEC's summer camps for youth ages 11-17 are still up and running. Information may be found on the DEC's website at this link:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>:

New York State Council of Trout Unlimited Report: Here is a report of what transpired at the March 16 NYS Council of Trout Unlimited meeting in Owego. Dee Maciejewski and I (Chuck) attended the meeting.

- 1) Thirty four stream gauges are scheduled to be shut down by the USGS due to lack of funding. This situation has now been reversed.
- 2) Applications for grants from the NYSCTU Conservation Fund are due April 30. We hope to apply for some of these funds for a project on Wiscoy Creek.
- 3) There are FREE one year memberships to Trout Unlimited available for women. Check it out on the following link: <https://www.tumembership.org/women>
Please encourage any women that you know to take advantage of this offer. Having more members translates directly into more political clout in trying to protect our resources.
- 4) According to a national TU representative at the meeting, the NYS missed a deadline in the regulatory process and will now need to start all over.
- 5) I would encourage everyone to check out the following statewide website for TU. This is not the official State Council website, but it has much more information on it. <http://www.nytu.org/>

There is also a Facebook page for this. Don't ask me how to access it. I don't have a clue. Chuck

- **Fund Raising: Ed. Note - Mr. Bill Jedlicka**, our Banquet Chairman, has submitted a report which can be found later on, in the "Articles" section, of this newsletter. Thanks, Bill. You did a fine job on this essential event!
- **Treasurer's Report for the Period Ended March 31, 2013 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina, Treasurer):**

	prior period thru 02/28/13	this period thru 03/31/13
(CHECKING ACCT)		
FEBRUARY 1, 2013	\$1,551.81	
MARCH 1, 2013		\$763.55
TU REBATES		\$50.00
SHOWS		\$684.00
TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$734.00

FEDERATION DUES	\$90.00	
MONTHLY MEETING	\$70.00	
WEBSITE DOMAIN NAME	\$335.76	
NEWSLETTER POSTAGE	\$292.50	
SHOWS		\$5.00
TU MERCHANDISE		\$420.84
STREAM PROJECTS		\$747.50
AWARDS		\$98.85

TOTAL OUTFLOWS: **\$788.26** **\$1,272.19**

FEBRUARY 28, 2013 **\$763.55**
MARCH 31, 2013 **\$225.36**

*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
			prior period thru 02/28/13	this period thru 03/31/13
	(MONEY MKT ACCT)			
FEBRUARY 1, 2013			\$26,013.44	
MARCH 1, 2013				\$26,014.24
INTEREST			\$0.80	\$0.88
	TOTAL INFLOWS:		\$0.80	\$0.88
NONE			\$0.00	\$0.00
FEBRUARY 28, 2013			\$26,014.24	
MARCH 31, 2013				\$26,015.12



Articles:

Banquet Recap by Bill Jedlicka

The 2013 WNY Trout Unlimited banquet was a great success. About 115 people attended the event, which netted just over \$6100.00 for the club!

I would like to take a moment to thank the following people for helping throughout the banquet planning process and for assisting on the day of the event: Len Bigaj (and family!), Gene Romanyshyn, Chuck Godfrey, Gary Coons, Antoinette Grote, Tony Messina, Dave Bollman, Paul Maciejewski, Dave Tooke and Ric Toczek. I also want to thank the entire Board of Directors for their support and encouragement during the year-long planning process.

I would also like to recognize the companies and individuals that supported this year's banquet. Without their support, the banquet would not have been the success that it was.

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Editor's Note: And now the third installment in a fascinating series of articles on fly-tying by WNY TU member, Mr. Jeffrey Kohler. Last month's article talked about tying the Woolly Bugger, which, by the way, yours truly tied, following Mr. Kohler's directions. Haven't had time to try them out yet, though. In any event, what follows is all about "Tom's Golden Stonefly Nymph".

All Tied Up (Vol. 3, April 2013)

Everyone who ties flies needs a mentor. You know, someone who ties themselves and will be brutally honest when you proudly show him or her one of your Isonychia Dun imitations and their critique starts out something like, "If I'm a fish, I aint eatin' that." My mentor is a fellow I've known for over 35 years. I don't have any friends left that I've known that long, so whenever Tommy D and I get together; it's always special to me. Tom started tying back in the '90's when G&R Tackle was still in business over on Seneca Street near the City Line. He took a few classes with Ray and has been working at it ever since. Tom put up with a lot of interrogation when I got started, but I caught my first trout on a fly he taught me. So I thought I'd pass his pattern on to our younger members - it's not too difficult to master and it will catch fish like crazy if you put it in the right spot.

To tie Tom's **Golden Stonefly Nymph**, you'll need the following:



- Hook: Daiichi #1560 Traditional Nymph or similar, size 10 or 12
- Thread: 8/0 Uni Thread or similar, black
- Tail: Dyed Goose Biots, brown
- Body: Wapsi Possum dubbing, black
- Wing Case: Swiss Straw, gold
- Hackle: Saddle type, black
- Weight: Lead wire, 0.15" dia.

Begin with the hook securely in your vise. Slightly behind the eye, wrap your thread back to the

hook bend and stop. Weight is optional but highly recommended. If you add weight, cut about 6" of lead wire from the spool and wrap it onto the hook shank about 1/4 " behind the eye with 15 to 20 end-to-end wraps. Add a drop or two of Zap-A Gap to help keep the lead in place, then spiral wrap the thread forward over the lead and back to the hook bend again. Select 2 goose biots for the tails and set them aside. Wind a small ball of thread onto the hook above the bend and tie in the biots; 1 per side of the ball and opposite sides out to keep them separate. The standard length of the tail is the width of the hook gap. Next, make a 1" long dubbing noodle on your thread and wind it onto the hook to a point about 1/2 of the shank length and tie it off. Stoneflies have a fat, wide thorax, so gently flatten the thorax and lead wire beneath it with your pliers. Cut a strip of Swiss Straw about 3/8" wide x 3" in length. Fold the straw lengthwise so it's about 3/16" wide and tie in just above where you stopped the dubbing. Fold the straw over your bodkin needle and back onto the hook making a shallow, flat loop. Place 2 or 3 tight wraps of thread over the straw to secure the loop to the hook. Repeat the dubbing, then fold, loop and tie- in step, except make the wing case slightly shorter than the first.

Select a black hackle that matches the hook size- check it with a hackle gauge- and tie it in behind the hook eye. Make 3 or 4 thread wraps and tie it off. Don't crowd the eye with too many wraps or you won't be able to thread the fly onto your tippet when you're on the stream. I like to tie off the hackle and change thread colors to finish the head with hot orange so I remember the fly is weighted. Make several tight wraps behind the hook eye to form a neat head on the fly. Make 3 or 4 half hitches or whip finish, then apply a drop of head cement for durability.

Tom didn't give me a Drivers' Manual on how to fish his Golden Stone pattern. Basically, he said "Tie it on, cast upstream, count it down and strip it slowly back through the run." That was good advice, since

about 3 casts after I did what he said, a beautiful 11” brown hammered that stone and I had my first trout on a fly I tied myself. You can also long stick it and bump it along the tail out of a deep pocket like Cathy Beck does after adding a pinch of weight to your tippet about 3” above the fly.

I hope you enjoy tying and fishing Tom’s Golden Stone Nymph this spring. When it still isn’t quite dry

fly time, this little gem can make the hour or so it took you to tie up a bunch worth every minute.

Jeff Kohler

WNY Chapter TU

PHOTOS:

Here are three images from the Brockport Trout in the Classroom Project release day.



Getting Ready!.....



Off they go!



Celebrating a job well done. Here, the class is enjoying snacks, provided by Mrs. Catlin, after releasing the trout and completing a nature-oriented scavenger hunt.

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