

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) January, 2012

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Shows-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)  
Spring Banquet-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)  
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**Chuck Godfrey** (675-0057)  
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(This newsletter is an expanded version of the print edition.)

**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying will start at 6pm. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying streamers.**

**Our speakers, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be Mr. Scott Cornett and Mr. James Zanett, both of Region 9 N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, who will present their traditional January report on the state of our Western New York cold water fisheries. This is one of our most popular discussions of the year. Please join us.**

## President’s Report

Greetings fellow TUers,

Another holiday season has come and gone, and the New Year finds most folks reflecting on accomplishments and ways to improve the upcoming year. That being said, we at WNYTU are going to attempt to reinvent ourselves, without reinventing the wheel.

First, this is the last printed newsletter you will be receiving until September. Due to the high cost of printing and postage, we seem to be working most of our fundraisers to supply the membership with a printed newsletter. As most of you know, Russ publishes two newsletter versions - the "simple" four page printed edition and the much expanded (award winning) electronic version where we are able to include more detailed articles as well as multiple, full-color photos and even graphics. Effective January 2012, we will be publishing only two printed newsletters each year, specifically, in January and September. If you are not one of the individuals who already receives the newsletter electronically, it will still be, as it is now, posted monthly on our website, [www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org) or <http://wnytu.org/newsletter.htm>. To provide Russ with your e-mail address, please contact him at [AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com).

As a note to this change, the WNYTU roster indicates that less than 60% of our membership has supplied their e-mail addresses as part of their membership information. Obviously, it is up to the individual to opt to provide that information; but the "fear" of TU's selling or providing your e-mail address to other agencies or organizations is unfounded.

Secondly, the meeting format you have known previously has met with considerable criticism. As the chairman of the meeting, I have attempted to shorten the meetings to the barest necessities for providing the membership with pertinent information. The consensus is that we are boring the membership. Starting with January's meeting, we will only be providing you with information very pertinent to the immediate upcoming events. That should take around five minutes; and, then, we will introduce the guest speaker. If you wish to discuss upcoming events with the chairman of the respective committee, you will have that opportunity to do so AFTER the guest speaker has finished with his or her presentation and question/answer period. As with all meetings, if you wish to discuss anything with another member or chairman, please leave the room in order to avoid interrupting the presentation.

I want to thank all those who attended our November meeting and to thank Connie Adams, Region 9 Wildlife Biologist, for her presentation on the Peregrine Falcon. It was indeed most informative and educational. Those of you who have seen Connie Adams before know that her energy and enthusiasm make for time well spent.

Our Christmas Party, the best yet attended, was a highly enjoyable evening. The "home baked" goodies and food, and the Yankee Swap, made for a nice break away from the busy schedules we seem to keep during the holidays.

Once again, January is the month we traditionally have DEC as our guest presenter at our chapter meeting. I was able to attend the Redhouse Brook chapter meeting, so I have seen part of what Scott Cornett has for us. Scott and Jim Zanett will allow plenty of time for questions during their presentation. This meeting is open to the public; consider bringing a guest, as always.

Upcoming events for the next couple of months:

The Erie Promotions Sportsman Show & Travel Expo is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Sunday, March 11, 2012, we are hosting a youth fly tying activity from noon until 4pm. Please contact Len if you would like to volunteer to help in the booth or during the youth fly tying activities.

The WNYTU Annual Fundraiser and Awards Banquet will take place on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Lucarelli's Banquet Center. Submissions/nominations for awards need to be submitted, by the end of the Sportsman Show, to the Awards Committee chairman, Dave Tooke, or myself. We prefer that submissions be via e-mail, but handwritten messages are OK, too.

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 will be the W.N.Y. Sport and Travel Expo, March 8 through 11, 2012. Please let me know if you would like to help out with staffing the booth or fly tying with the kids (March 11).

**Project Healing Waters:** We will be at the VA on February 9 and March 8.

**Annual Banquet:** The 2012 Banquet will be held at Lucarelli's Banquet Center, 1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, N.Y., on March 24. Once again, we would like to thank Century Printing for donating the banquet and grand prize tickets. We are pre-selling our grand prize tickets for a Dell i3-4GF laptop and, as a second prize, a 7.5ft., 5wt. custom-built TU fly rod. Prize tickets are \$10.00 each, or three for \$20.00. If you cannot attend the banquet but would like to support your TU chapter by purchasing the raffle tickets, please send your TU donation to Len Bigaj, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna, N.Y. 14218. Please try to support your local chapter by attending the banquet, which is our most important fundraiser of the year. The banquet tickets are \$30.00 each. I will have tickets at chapter meetings, and they are also available at the Oak Orchard and Orvis Fly Shops. Please note that, because of extensive fees and new bank regulations, we will no longer be able to accept charge cards at the banquet. We apologize for the inconvenience. And, finally, please remember that we are still looking for a new Banquet Chairman for 2013. Thanks to all, Len. (Ed. Note: Please see banquet announcement on page 8.)

- **A Report from Chuck Godfrey:**

**Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District Award:** "On October 16, WNYTU President Gary Coons and Stream Projects Chairman Chuck Godfrey represented the chapter as guests at the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual dinner. The SWCD had decided to inaugurate the Ronald P. Herman, Sr., Partners in Conservation Award in honor of a long time member of the SWCD's Board. The plaque reads "For outstanding achievement and dedication to the stabilization of stream channels and the restoration of trout habitat in Wyoming County." Gary and Chuck were honored to accept this first ever award on behalf of WNYTU. It recognized TU's commitment to our mission, which has been more evident in Wyoming County than in any other county in WNY. We've most recently participated in the North Branch of Wiscoy Creek Project, which will be completed in 2012; but we have worked for over 40 years on the main Wiscoy Creek, Cattaraugus Creek, Oatka Creek, East Koy Creek, and their watersheds. We continue to maintain our commitment to the resource as well as our commitment to partnering with other groups to protect and to enhance coldwater fisheries in WNY. Finally, we need to recognize that most of what we do in the way of actual instream work would not be possible without the tremendous efforts of personnel from the DEC and, more recently, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, based in Amherst. They do all the planning and groundwork for the projects in which we participate." (Editor's Note: In the "Articles and Photos" section of this newsletter, you can see a picture of the award presentation.)

**Freshwater Fishing Map:** Mr. Godfrey forwarded an announcement from DEC concerning their new fishing map. The release states that the "I Fish N.Y. Freshwater Fishing Map" is now available from DEC. The map and brochure provide information on over 400 lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. To obtain the map, which is free, you can visit any DEC regional office or make a request via e-mail. According to the DEC announcement, an e-mail request should be sent to DEC at [fwfish@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwfish@gw.dec.state.ny.us). In your e-mail, include your name and address, as well as "NY Fishing Map" in the subject line.

**Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs:** Chuck Godfrey would also like us to be aware of the upcoming annual banquet and awards dinner of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Accordingly, their flyer is appended to this newsletter.

**Alevin Pictures:** Mr. Godfrey has forwarded some fascinating photographs of the "Trout in the Classroom" creatures growing at the Nichols School. They can be viewed in the "Articles and Photos" section of the newsletter.



## Articles and Photos

A Tribute to Steve Mooradian  
By  
Chuck Godfrey

On November 16, 2011, Western New York lost a fine gentleman and a friend of outdoorsmen and women throughout Region 9. Steve Mooradian passed away of a heart attack in Hawaii while celebrating his 40th wedding anniversary with his wife, Eunice. He will be sorely missed.

Over the years, we have participated in many stream projects which would not have been possible without the support of Steve and his willingness to commit DEC personnel and money to planning and to carrying out those projects. Thanks to Steve's involvement, over a period of many years, work was carried out on Wiscoy Creek, Hosmer Brook, the upper Cattaraugus Creek, East Koy Creek; and I'm probably forgetting some. (Many of those projects took place so long ago that they are not familiar to newer members of our organization.) It was a great tradition of support which he began and which continued under Paul McKeown, his successor as Regional Fisheries Manager, and, now, Mike Clancy, Paul's successor.

I know when I was WNYTU president, I used to attend the TU State Council meetings; and, when we would report on what we had done in the Region, many other TU chapters from across the state would ask how we managed to get such cooperation from the DEC; because they perhaps did not have as good a relationship with the Fisheries folks in their Regions. Well, it started at the top, with Steve Mooradian's believing in us and our mission and supporting it.

Here is just one example of how Steve cooperated with us to get done what needed to be done in the Region. I first had personal contact with Steve at an Erie County Federation meeting in September of 1986. This was the meeting at which the DEC personnel of the Region traditionally gave reports to the Federation, renewed old acquaintances, and enjoyed hot dogs and corn, courtesy of the SFS. That particular evening, Steve recounted how, earlier in the day, his Fisheries people had had to cancel an electroshocking survey because of a shortage of personnel due to an illness or two, a tech's being called onto another project, and probably something else which I do not recall. He said this had happened during the summer also. I approached him after the meeting and mentioned that I was a teacher with most of the summer free, that TU had other teachers who were free in the summer, as well as a bunch of older, dedicated, retired members who would probably be able to be available in the summer. I asked if it was permissible to use non-DEC personnel on the electroshocking surveys. Steve responded that it could be done. So I proposed that we put together a list of TU members who might be able to help with electroshocking if the need arose,

and he agreed. I published a request, in a couple of successive newsletters, asking for volunteers. We generated a list which was forwarded to Steve for his folks – at the time, mostly Joe Evans and Jim Pomeroy – to use if needed. The next summer, some of us started to get phone calls – remember this was long before the days of emails – and letters with lists of days when help could be used. This was the start of the DEC’s extensive use of our members as volunteers on electroshocking in Region 9, and it was due to Steve’s willingness to be innovative. Incidentally, upon Steve’s retirement, Region 9 DEC established the Stephen R. Mooradian Fisheries Partnership Award in his honor.

On November 23, 2011, I attended Steve’s funeral in Obi – prior to this I didn’t even know there WAS an Obi, NY – and listened as friends and members of his church community extolled his virtues and told stories of good times with Steve. If you knew him at all, you know there were lots of good times and many great stories. I got to meet his wife, Eunice; and she recounted the following story to me. She said that, many times, the job could be wearing. Sometimes, after a meeting, Steve would return home and mention that it was nice that everyone at the meeting knew his job better than he did. I can empathize with that, as I’ve attended meetings where people have treated DEC folks like that. At any rate, he returned late one night and woke her up to tell her about the “meeting” he had attended that evening. It was the night he received the “Silver Trout Award” from our chapter. He told her it was a highlight of his career to receive that award from us and to hear the applause and ovation he received, and that he still felt that way until the end. I wasn’t able to make it, but I’m told the award was proudly displayed at his viewings on Tuesday, and I’ve since heard the same story from another person who was unable to make the funeral but contacted Eunice to reminisce about Steve.

WNY outdoorsmen and women and conservationists lost a great friend, supporter, and advocate when we lost Steve. Those of you who receive the electronic newsletter will have a picture of the sign outside the church for the funeral. For those who don’t, it says “We praise God for Steve Mooradian, a man of God. You will be missed.” Truer words were never spoken.

### **Photo Section**



The year was 1968, and here is a photo taken on the occasion of the first stocking of Pacific salmon in New York’s waters of the Great Lakes. From left to right, DEC Region 9 personnel Tony Veno, Bill Shephard, and Steve Mooradian.



Scene outside the church where Steve Mooradian's funeral was held.

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The Alevins of Nichols School (as of the fall of 2011):



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WNYTU President, Gary Coons, and Stream Projects Chairman, Chuck Godfrey, accept the Ronald P. Herman, Sr., Partners in Conservation Award from Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager, Greg McKurth.

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LEN BIGAJ

(716) 826-4178

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Orchard Fly Shop\*\***

Purchase your Grand Prize tickets \$10 per ticket, \$20 for 3 tickets. Winner's choice of:

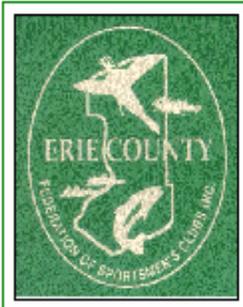
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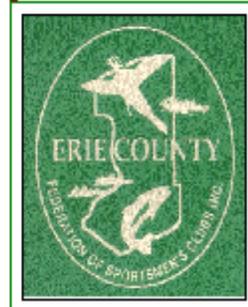


Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization with the mission to: conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

# Erie County Federation of Sportsmen



## Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner



**Date: Saturday, March 3, 2012**  
6:00 PM - Social Hour (**Open bar All Night**)  
7:00 PM – Sit Down Dinner

**Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall**  
2735 Union Rd.  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

**\$40 Per Ticket - \$70 Per Couple**

For Ticket and Program ad information please contact:

Dave Smyczynski – 716-949-9483; [brador7@hotmail.com](mailto:brador7@hotmail.com)

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**Enjoy the Open Bar All Night**

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Find us on Facebook – [Erie County Federation](#)

Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2011. Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina

			prior period thru 10/31/11	this period thru 12/31/11
BALANCE AT	OCTOBER 1, 2011	CHECKING ACCT	<b>\$2,035.75</b>	
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2011			<b>\$1,743.28</b>
INFLOWS:	50/50 DRAWING		\$44.00	\$66.00
	BANK REIMBURSEMENT			\$0.01
	HOLIDAY RAFFLE			\$100.00
		TOTAL INFLOWS:	<b>\$44.00</b>	<b>\$166.01</b>
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00	\$70.00
	50/50 DRAWING PRIZE		\$22.00	\$33.00
	NEWSLETTER POSTAGE		\$220.00	
	SHOWS		\$24.47	
	FLY-TYING SUPPLIES			\$19.58
	NEWSLETTER PRINTING			\$146.40
	STREAM PROJECTS			\$140.09
	TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM			\$352.50
	INSURANCE			\$150.00
	HOLIDAY PARTY			\$300.27
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	<b>\$336.47</b>	<b>\$1,211.84</b>
BALANCE AT	OCTOBER 31, 2011		<b>\$1,743.28</b>	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2011			<b>\$697.45</b>
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
			prior period thru 10/31/11	this period thru 12/31/11
BALANCE AT	OCTOBER 1, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	<b>\$22,190.80</b>	
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2011			<b>\$22,192.31</b>
INFLOWS:	INTEREST (Nov & Dec)		\$1.51	\$2.97
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	OCTOBER 31, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	<b>\$22,192.31</b>	
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2011			<b>\$22,195.28</b>