

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) June, 2010

OFFICERS

Gary Coons—President yragсноoc@juno.com
7329 Townline Rd, N. Tonawanda NY 14120 (695-1003)
Gene Romanyshyn-Vice President
5289 Roberts Rd., Hamburg NY 14075 (491-6111)
Antoinette Grote-Secretary (684-9523)
Tony Messina-Treasurer
33 Deveraux, Buffalo, NY 14214 (832-8517) amessina@hotmail.com

COMMITTEES

Awards-**Dave Tooke** (688-7492) tkflytier@yahoo.com
Education-**Antoinette Grote** (684-9523)
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-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)
Stream Projects-**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@roadrunner.com
State Council Delegates:
Chuck Godfrey (675-0057)
Gene Romanyshyn (627-2888)
Newsletter: **Russell Shefrin** AdkRuss@roadrunner.com

Stamp

Label

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying will start at 6pm. Please bring gray thread, because we will be tying the Bead Head Musky. Our June meeting, which is the last until September, will not have an official guest speaker. Instead, it will be a social event, with refreshments provided by the chapter. This will be an opportunity to re-connect with fellow TU members and guests. (Details are in the President's Report.) Please join us.

President's Report

Greetings fellow TUers,

I'm hoping that you folks have gotten out and enjoyed some of our inland fishing opportunities. After missing most of last summer, I was able to enjoy an afternoon and evening of what I would call some fantastic fishing on Memorial Day weekend with my son.

I want to thank **Nick Pionessa** of The Oak Orchard Fly Shop. Nick's presentation on insect hatches and imitation presentation on area waters was packed with detailed close-up photos he had taken himself. Thanks again, Nick.

If you folks get the chance to stop by the Springdale Farm area on the Wiscoy, you will see that the stream project there has made an amazing transformation after the “early” spring growing season.

Trout Unlimited is one of the most active volunteer organizations. We care about the resource we work so hard to protect. According to the TU national website, TUers volunteered an average of just over 5 hours for every member in the organization.

I am very pleased to announce that the Western NY chapter of TU is sponsoring a young man from Niagara County to attend the Youth Trout camp, July 18th through the 24th. I’m looking forward to his report when he returns.

The TIC program at the Nichols school has seen yet another year of success, thanks to a great group of teachers who represented study areas from English Literature to Information Technologies. Via a rather urgent e-mail and a few phone calls on an early Thursday morning, we learned the chiller had failed; and the water temperature rose quickly, requiring an earlier than scheduled release of the young fish. With hipsters on, we trekked down the Glen Park trail to Ellicott Creek. We were concerned that water temperature differences might shock the “little guys”. With a four degree difference, we held our breaths and released the 26 trout. I was amazed (and relieved) at how fast each rainbow acclimated to the surroundings and found refuge in the rocks, virtually disappearing into the new surroundings. (Ed. Note: Please see the photos later in this newsletter.)

The next chapter meeting will be our last before we take a summer hiatus. However, much work still needs to be done. Volunteers will be needed for the Erie County Fair booth (August 11th thru the 22nd). I’m hoping we can get enough volunteers so that two people can staff the booth for at least most of the day. If you have a knack for selling flies or doing “PR” and promoting our mantra....you are needed. Contact Len.

Along the lines of volunteerism....we need a Banquet chairman. Len has been our banquet chairman for more years than I remember. This is serious stuff here. Len has offered to help you get your “feet wet”. The banquet activities are well organized and just need some one to take the reigns. This should not be done by just the chairman. The “Banquet Committee” has been a committee of one for many years. We are not looking for an individual here. We are looking for two, three, several TUers to step up with some effort to further the cold water resource. Will you?

Our June meeting will not have a guest speaker. Since we did not have our Christmas party due to 14 inches of “white stuff”, we’d still like to have a social event for the year. So come out and join us. Hotdogs on a grill, (some homemade beer brats), salad, non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by the chapter. (In addition to chapter activities, a private wine tasting will be held.) If you care to bring something, a dessert or brownies or cookies are always appreciated. 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:** The next show will be the Erie County Fair, which runs from August 11 through August 22, 2010. If you would like to help with the booth or plan to tie a few of your best flies for the show, please let me know. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. (P.S. I would like to say, “Thank you” to all those who tied flies at last month’s chapter meeting.)

Project Healing Waters: We will be fishing with the Vets at the Elma Conservation Club on July 1, July 20, August 11, September 2, and September 22. The sessions start at 11am. If you would like to help, please let me know.

Annual Banquet: Next year's banquet will be on March 26, 2010, same time, same place. We are still looking for a new Banquet Chairperson for 2012. If you would like to run this worthy function, please let me know. Thanks, Len.

- **News From DEC:** The Region 9 DEC Fisheries Office is requesting that anglers who have been keeping diaries for DEC on **Ischua and Goose Creeks** this spring kindly return the diaries at the **end of June**. The diaries can be mailed to **Jim Zanett** or **Scott Cornett** at:

NYS DEC
182 East Union Street
Suite #3
Allegany, NY 14706

If you received a diary but did not use it, do not mail it back, but please give DEC a call at 372-0645 and let them know you did not make any trips. Also, if you are keeping a Genesee River diary for 2010, please **DO NOT** return it yet; because that diary program runs until the end of October.

- **Youth-Oriented Fishing Events:** **Mr. Chuck Godfrey** has provided the following list of "WNY 2010 Educational Outreach-Fishing Events for Youth" from the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen:

June 26, 2010- ECFED, Chestnut Ridge Park Lake / East Aurora Boys-Girls Club, supported by Legislator John Mills office w/Erie County Press Release.

July 17, 2010: Southtowns Walleye Association annual youth fishing derby at Tift Nature Preserve.

July 25, 2010-NY Walleye Association, Delaware Park Lake.

July 2010-Southtowns Walleye Association Youth Fishing Derby, Tift Nature Preserve.

August 2010- Elma Conservation Club, youth fishing derby.

August 11-22, 2010- ECFED at Erie County Fair; kids rod-reel raffle, 2/day.

Sep. 18, 2010- East Aurora Fish & Game Teach-Me-To-Fish.

(Mr. Godfrey points out that the Chestnut Ridge site is an excellent large bluegill fishery and that the June 26 event is the only time during the year that the county allows children under eighteen to use it.)

- **More Activities for Young People:** **Mr. Justin Damude** would like to call your attention to the "**Youth Fly Fishing Festival**" which will be held at the Rushford Lake Conservation Club, Hillcrest Road, Rushford, N.Y. on July 24, 2010, starting at 10am. Featured will be Fly Tying and Casting, a "Bug Class", Catch and Release Fishing, and food and prizes. For registration and information, please contact Rick Walczyk at rushfordrick@yahoo.com or 716-572-2706. TU is one of the sponsors of this event.

- **WNYTU Treasurer’s Report:** For Period Ending May 31, 2010 (Submitted by **Anthony Messina.**)

BALANCE AT MAY 1, 2010	CHECKING ACCT	\$542.51
INFLOWS: NONE		
OUTFLOWS: MONTHLY MEETING		\$70.00
STREAM PROJECTS		\$37.22
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$107.22
BALANCE AT MAY 31, 2010	CHECKING ACCT	\$435.29

BALANCE AT MAY 1, 2010	MONEY MARKET ACCT	\$17,364.15
INFLOWS: INTEREST		\$1.47
OUTFLOWS: NONE		\$0.00
BALANCE AT MAY 31, 2010	MONEY MARKET ACCT	\$17,365.62

ALL FUNDS ON DEPOSIT AT BANK OF AMERICA



Articles

“Lessons from the Bog”

By

Russell Shefrin

Bogs and related wet lands are fascinating places. Unusual plants, some quite bizarre and found nowhere else, struggle to survive in a surprisingly nutrient poor environment. The minimal decay found there makes these places important carbon sinks, and some observers have noted that they also function as natural “air conditioners”. For

thousands of years, they have been sources of mystery and myth (think, for example, “The Hound of the Baskervilles”), and have been the repositories of more than a few ancient human bodies, perhaps sacrificial victims, still exquisitely preserved by the unique chemistry of the bog. We have some fine bog examples in Western New York (though no human sacrifices have been found in them, as far as I know). But, last month, I had the distinct pleasure of being able to spend an afternoon at the Nature Conservancy’s Spring Pond Bog Preserve near Tupper Lake, N.Y.

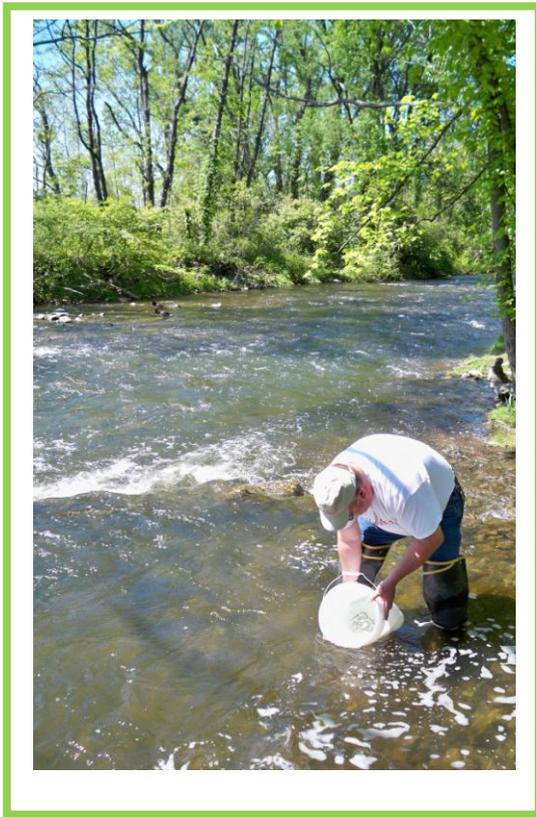


So, what does this have to do with cold water fisheries conservation? After all, bogs are not kind to fish. Few species can tolerate the low oxygen, usually highly acid, waters found there. (About the only fish that seems to thrive in our local Moss Lake Bog, near Rushford, for example, is the brown bull-head.) Well, here are a couple of connections that occurred to me as I sat, alone and in the middle of nowhere, at the Spring Pond Bog.

The first concerns focus of attention. I don’t know about you; but, when I am on a trout stream I find myself very engaged in the process of trying to catch a fish. I am absorbed in the technical and mechanical details of selecting a fly, attaching it to my line (those darn knots!), casting, presentation, and, on occasion, landing and releasing a trout. And that’s when things are going according to plan. When they are not, I am trying to maintain my footing on a slippery stream bed, cursing the trees which have snagged my fly, and trying to find where I put that floatant in my overly full fishing vest. The point is, I am so caught up in all this stuff, some fun, some not, I really do not pay much attention to the beautiful wild spaces where trout are found. When I was at the Spring Pond Bog, I made a special effort simply to sit, to look around, and to take the time to let the place weave me into its magic. The experience was refreshing, uplifting, and marvelously memorable, even if it did not come easily at first. It made me realize that I need to do more of this in the natural world. What better place to repeat the process than on a trout stream? The next time I am out with my fly rod, I plan to take some time to sit with the stream and see what it and its environs have to tell me. What about you? There is little doubt that it will enhance our appreciation of and sense of connection to wild spaces.

And brings me to the other thought I had as I drove home from Spring Pond Bog. Its unspoiled environment remains that way because people decided to conserve it. Who knows what its condition would be had not enlightened humans purposely intervened. Throughout their range, thousands of acres of bog and similar habitats have been dug up for peat, drained for various purposes, and probably used as out-of-the-way waste dumps. Without determined efforts by folks like the Nature Conservancy, we are at risk for losing more of these wonderful natural areas, an event that likely bodes ill for the larger environment as well as our psyches. The same, it seems to me, applies to our cold water fishery resources. They, like bogs, face threats from human activity; and it is up to us humans to protect them. I guess that’s why I joined Trout Unlimited. “To conserve, protect, and restore”: It has a nice sound to it, just like the wind did at Spring Pond Bog.

Nichols School Trout Released. WNY TU President, Gary Coons, In Action!



Acclimation to New Water



Fingerlings Released

Our Advertisers

Century Printing and Graphics, Inc.

Full Color Digital Printing Specialists

5872 Main Street

Williamsville, New York 14221

716-634-7816

Whispering Pines Fish Farm

Pond Stocking

Trout, Bass, Perch, Minnows

Grass Carp, Koi, Crayfish

716-496-7440