

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) May/June, 2020

## OFFICERS

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## COMMITTEES

Awards-**Dave Tooke** (Awards@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Education- **Bob Bohner**

Library- **[open]**

Membership- **Bob Bohner**

Fly Tying Sessions-**Dave Bollman**

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Salmon & Steelhead-**Don Kwiatkowski** (SalmonandSteelhead@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Shows-**Dave Bollman** (Shows@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Spring Banquet- **[open]**

Conservation- **Joe Morgan** (Conservation@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

Website: [www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org).

(**Ric Toczek** [webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org](mailto:webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org))

Welcome- **Bob Bohner**

Video Library- **[open]**

Erie County Federation Reps:

**Chuck Godfrey** (440-6995) [steelheader03@hotmail.com](mailto:steelheader03@hotmail.com);

**Debbie Godfrey**

State Council Delegates:

**Chuck Godfrey** (440-6995)

**Gene Romanyshyn, Debbie Godfrey**

Newsletter: **Russell Shefrin** [AdkRuss@gmail.com](mailto:AdkRuss@gmail.com).

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**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting:** The next chapter meeting, previously scheduled for **Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 7:30 pm**, at the ORVIS SHOP, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, New York, **HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19/ NOVEL CORONA VIRUS STATE OF EMERGENCY.** (The annual WNYTU June picnic has been cancelled for the same reason.)

## President's Message:

Hi Everyone,

First, I have, unfortunately, some very sad news. Ray Kegler passed away recently. All of our older members will remember him. He was one of two brothers who founded G&R Tackle in West Seneca. He also was one of our most supportive members. He volunteered at many, many stream projects over the years, always sponsored a table at our fundraising banquets, and helped with prizes for the banquets. Here is a link to his obituary. He will be sorely missed. <https://buffalonews.com/2020/05/09/raymond-p-kegler-96-co-owner-of-gr-tackle-led-life-of-adventure-and-joy/>

It is May 19<sup>th</sup> when I write this. Last night, we had an Executive Committee meeting (virtual, of course) of the NYS Council of Trout Unlimited. This may be the wave of the near future. I've been in more conference call and

Zoom meetings in the last two months than I have in all the previous years of my life. The Council has purchased a Zoom program that can be used by chapters for meetings, if they wish. This is something we will consider for now. It's probably the only way to meet for the foreseeable future. If there is any kind of presentation, discussion, etc., that anyone would like to see us do, please let us know. Kindly contact any Board member with your suggestion. Chapters around the country are moving to this. The possibilities are limited only by our imaginations.

Shortly, there will be an announcement going out to all TU members in the state about the next Council General membership meeting, which will be held Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be a Zoom meeting and is scheduled to last no more than 1 ½ hours. It will include a presentation by Chris Wood, president of TU, and Steve Hurst, in charge of Fisheries for the DEC, among others. This would be a great time to see the Council in action, without having to invest the driving time and money involved in physically attending a meeting.

At the moment, the Erie County Agricultural Society is planning on holding the Erie County Fair. The Board has discussed this via email. I know I don't believe that this will happen in the manner it has for years in the past. Anyway, the Board has decided that we will forego staffing a booth in the Conservation Building for this year, due to the obvious problems that Covid-19 may be causing.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the DEC is scheduled to release the long-awaited "Inland Trout Stream Management Plan." [Editor's Note: Please see the message from Mr. Scott Cornett, later in this newsletter.] In our opinion this is a fantastic leap forward from the existing (1980's) plan and deserves our whole-hearted support. It will be posted on the DEC's website, and then there will be 30 days to comment on it to the DEC. The chapter is already on board with supporting it, but we would urge people to make comments, pro or con, to the DEC. We will post the link to the plan on our website and Facebook pages as soon as they are available.

On Thursday night, May 21, the DEC will be hosting a virtual report on the state of the fisheries in Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Here is the information. Notice that you can attend via computer or phone. This has always been a very informative meeting when held live at Woodlawn:

***Lake Erie & Upper Niagara River Fisheries Status Meeting is Going Virtual on May 21.*** DEC invites the public to "tune in" on Thursday, May 21st from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for a virtual public meeting on the status of Lake Erie and Upper Niagara River fisheries. The webinar will feature news and updates on the warmwater and coldwater fisheries, followed by a 30-minute Q&A online chat session. New York Sea Grant will also provide information on yellow perch barotrauma.

*This webinar is sponsored by DEC's Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit and Region 9 Fisheries Unit.*

*Participants can use the [webex link](#) to join the meeting. If a password is required, enter the meeting password 2RZrJKc3si6, and click 'join,' and follow any instructions that appear on your screen. Participants are directed to use the meeting access code 614 331 916.*

*Upon joining the meeting, participants will be prompted to connect to audio using their computer. To connect to audio via phone, use the following call-in information: toll free number 1-844-633-8697 and access code: 614 331 916.*



Finally, we all hope that everyone is staying safe and well. I've been lucky in that I do not, personally, know anyone who has died of the virus, nor even anyone who contracted the disease. I'm sure that can't be true for all our members, and our hearts go out to anyone who has been touched by this illness. Hopefully, we can return to some semblance of "normal" by the end of the summer. If so, we will resume physical meetings then. In the meantime, keep checking with Facebook and our website, as we will post information there as we go along.

Chuck Godfrey, WNYTU President

- **Editor's Position Open, Redux:** *"The time has come," the Walrus said, "to talk of many things: Of shoes--and ships--and sealing wax--of cabbages--and kings--and new newsletter editors"* [Apologies to Lewis Carroll]. So, let us talk: After over ten years as editor of "Trout Talk", I have decided to hang up the red pen (or whatever is the digital equivalent). It has been a real pleasure to produce the newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited. The time has come, though, to give someone else the chance to compose and to distribute this important medium of communication to, and among, our members, and to exercise creativity in composing a document which often includes photography and original articles. A love of the language, a respect for grammar (with the assistance of Spell Check – LOL), and a desire to keep our members in the loop are definite assets for this job. Some familiarity with Microsoft Word and Excel is required; but you do not need to be a computer expert. I would, of course, be willing to guide your transition to the role. If interested, please e-mail me at [adruss@gmail.com](mailto:adruss@gmail.com). Russ Shefrin, Newsletter Editor.
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing: Mr. David Bollman** reports that all PHWFF meetings and events have been cancelled until July 31, 2020.
- **Stream Conservation Report – by Mr. Joseph Morgan:** On May 12 and May 13, the NYDEC planted approximately 255 trees and 85 willows along Wiscoy Creek at Albro Rd., the No Kill Section below the Hillside Rd. bridge, and along a PFR section on East Koy Creek. See attached pictures. Our chapter was originally scheduled to help with this work; but, due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place, we were unable to participate. The DEC stepped up and helped us out, and I thank them on behalf of our chapter. We maybe planting more trees this Fall at the Albro Bridge site. I will let you know if and when it happens. The final design and bid package for the Pike Dam removal is expected to be delivered to the DEC at the end of May. After that, bids will be submitted for the construction work. That also may or may not happen this Summer. Stay Safe. Joe.
- **Mr. Scott Cornett**, of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, would like us to know that the proposal for the Inland Trout Management Plan will not be rolled out until May 27. We will likely send out a separate mailing, to our newsletter subscribers, when the link becomes available. Please see Mr. Godfrey's President's Report regarding the public comment period.

- **From the Editor:** Our “Trout Talk” newsletter is published in an expanded electronic format each month except for July, August, and December. In order to contain costs, the (typically brief) print version is only available once a year, namely, in September. Unfortunately, even on this schedule, the financial burden, to WNY TU, of the print newsletter remains considerable. Many of our members have agreed to forgo the print edition and to accept only the digital version (which is sent to them via email). It would help our organization considerably if more of our members agreed to this arrangement. All you have to do is send me your e-mail and surface mail addresses so that I can add you to the electronic mailing list and remove your name from the paper mailing list. I can be reached at [AdkRuss@gmail.com](mailto:AdkRuss@gmail.com)
- Trout Unlimited Discounts: Mr. Bob Bohner would like us to be aware of discounts and/or discounted new memberships available to TU members. They can be found by checking out this link: <https://gifts.tu.org/intro>. (We are chapter 068.)
- **Treasurer’s Report for the Period April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):**

		prior period thru 03/31/20	this period thru 04/30/20
		(CHECKING ACCT)	
BALANCE AT	MARCH 1, 2020	<b>\$1,218.85</b>	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 1, 2020		<b>\$1,172.33</b>
INFLOWS:	SHOWS	\$515.00	
	TRANSFER FROM MONEY MARKET ACCT.		\$500.00
	GRANT FROM STATE COUNCIL		\$4,000.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	<b>\$515.00</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>
OUTFLOWS:	BOND INSURANCE		\$100.00
	STREAM PROJECTS		\$1,346.75
	BROCHURES PRINTING		\$1,540.00
	WEBSITE/E-MAIL	\$111.52	
	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$150.00	
	DONATION (NYC Trout in the Classroom)	\$100.00	
	DONATION (NYSCTU Youth Camp)	\$100.00	
	DONATION (NYSCTU Conservation Fund)	\$100.00	
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	<b>\$561.52</b>	<b>\$2,986.75</b>
BALANCE AT	MARCH 31, 2020	<b>\$1,172.33</b>	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 30, 2020		<b>\$2,685.58</b>

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		(MONEY MKT ACCT)	prior period thru 03/31/20	this period thru 04/30/20
BALANCE AT	MARCH 1, 2020		<b>\$27,371.64</b>	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 1, 2020			<b>\$27,372.10</b>
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$0.46	\$0.44
		TOTAL INFLOWS:	<b>\$0.46</b>	<b>\$0.44</b>
OUTFLOWS:	TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCT.			\$500.00
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
BALANCE AT	MARCH 31, 2020		<b>\$27,372.10</b>	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 30, 2020			<b>\$26,872.54</b>

		(RESTR. FNDS ACCT)	***** prior period thru 03/31/20	***** this period thru 04/30/20
BALANCE AT	MARCH 1, 2020		<b>\$10,000.00</b>	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 1, 2020			<b>\$10,000.00</b>
INFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	MARCH 31, 2020		<b>\$10,000.00</b>	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 30, 2020			<b>\$10,000.00</b>



**Articles:**

WNYTU Chapter President, **Mr. Chuck Godfrey**, would like us to be aware of this letter regarding the Bristol Bay/Pebble Creek matter in Alaska. The chapter has signed on to this document, as have some 250 other organizations. The letter, and the signatories, will be available on the chapter's Face Book page.

May 12, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Protect American jobs from foreign mining company

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned entities, representing hundreds of thousands of businesses, hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts, respectfully request that you direct the Army Corps of Engineers to deny the Clean Water Act 404 permit for the proposed Pebble mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska. If built, the mine would immediately jeopardize thousands of American jobs, hundreds of businesses, a sportfishing and hunting paradise, and thriving outdoor industries.

In Alaska, fishing and hunting are big business. The foundation of a successful business in this industry is clean water and access to rivers and land that are untrammelled. The rivers downstream of the proposed Pebble mine and its infrastructure are some of the most sought-after fishing and hunting destinations in the world. The Bristol Bay fishing and tourism industries together account for more than 14,000 full and part-time jobs and a \$1.5 billion annual economy.

As businesses and organizations that rely on Bristol Bay's intact watershed, we have watched the Pebble mine closely, following the permitting process and engaging in each opportunity we have been afforded. Still, the permit review process, meant to ease our concerns, has done the opposite. The review process continues to rely on an incomplete and changing permit application and mine plan. It does not consider reasonable, foreseeable impacts from the project as required by law and common sense. Additionally, numerous agencies have raised concerns that the current permit review minimizes or ignores direct and indirect, long-term impacts on downstream resources and habitat.

We stand among millions of American individuals and businesses who oppose the prospect of a foreign mining company risking a lucrative, top-tier sporting location for American sportsmen and business with a massive mine. As the Army Corps of Engineers is on track to issue a decision in the next six months, we look to you to urgently stand with American businesses and jobs, and the resources that support our families and rural communities and deny this permit.

Respectfully,

**Photography:**

Mr. Joe Morgan forwards these images of the DEC planting project referenced in his report: The views are of Wiscoy Creek at Albro Road; and, in the third photo, we can see DEC staff hard at work.





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