

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) October, 2018

OFFICERS

Chuck Godfrey —President (440-6995) steelheader03@hotmail.com

Antoinette Grote-Vice President (684-9523) antoinettegrote@yahoo.com

Dave Unetich-Secretary (759-2443)

Tony Messina-Treasurer

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

COMMITTEES

Awards-**Dave Tooke** (688-7492) tkflytier@yahoo.com

Education-**Dave Bollman** (826-6214)

Library- **[open]**

Membership-**Gary Coons** yragсноoc@gmail.com

Fly tying sessions-**Dave Bollman**

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

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

Shows-**Dave Bollman (826-6214)**

Spring Banquet- **[open]**

Conservation- **Joe Morgan (716-912-0960)** joephmorgan@msn.com.

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

Website: **Ric Toczek** webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org

Welcome- **Dave Bollman**

Video Library- **[open]**

Erie County Federation Reps:

Chuck Godfrey (440-6995) steelheader03@hotmail.com;

Debbie Godfrey

State Council Delegates:

Chuck Godfrey (440-6995)

Gene Romanyshyn, Debbie Godfrey

Newsletter: **Russell Shefrin** AdkRuss@gmail.com.

On the web: wnytu.or

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ADDENDUM TO “TROUT TALK” NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER, 2018.

You should have received your copy of “Trout Talk” for October, 2018. However, in looking through my rather clogged e-mail In-Box, I discovered a message sent to me early in the month. I should have included it in the newsletter but overlooked it. So, with apologies to **Mr. Brian Green**, of the Niagara Chapter, TU Canada, who sent it to me, I am publishing this special edition. It should be of great interest to our membership, especially those who are active in Project Healing Waters.

Mr. Green writes: “Here’s a short description of a program that your Chapter of TU inspired about eight years ago when our Niagara Chapter was in its infancy”.

The Niagara (Ontario) Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada has just held its sixth Healing Waters Program for injured Canadian soldiers. Inspired by visits to the Buffalo Chapter of TU and reports of their extensive Healing Waters activities, the Niagara Chapter undertook to offer a three day “boot camp” to teach fly casting and fly tying to soldiers sponsored by Soldier On, an organization that offers recreational programs for vets.

The soldiers received basic information about the art and craft of fly fishing and fly tying at a social evening early after their arrival from bases across Ontario. The following day at a local bass pond, they got casting instruction

from Bill Spicer, host of The New Fly Fisher on World Fishing Network Television and were paired up with coaches from the Chapter. After practicing their skills on the bass and crappie the soldiers enjoyed a tour of nearby Vineland Estates Winery, followed by an evening of fly tying instruction. On their last day, they were bused north of Toronto to The Franklin Club, an exclusive fishing club that opened its doors to let them try their new skills and the flies they tied the previous evening, on the club's big rainbow and brook trout.

Among the highlights of this year's program was the presence of a guest coach from Western New York, Sheila DiTullio, who took time out from a hectic schedule to drive across the border and lend a hand with casting instruction. An avid and enthusiastic angler, she was able to share her passion and fly fishing prowess with our novice anglers.

It was another very successful program, receiving rave reviews from the participants, both for the introduction to fly fishing and tying, and for the civilian contact and comradery throughout the three days. We all look forward to offering our seventh annual program next fall.

Here are photos of the outings described above, along with captions kindly supplied by Mr. Green:



The soldiers and their coaches.



The participants start to learn the cast with the help of Niagara Chapter coaches.



Soldier Diana Sansom with her first fish as a fly angler and coach Sheila DiTullio



Soldier Mike Briggs and coach Bryne Emereau



Soldier JB Garneau with a beautiful rainbow from the Franklin Club

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