

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) September 2020

OFFICERS

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

Brian Barry-Vice President (VicePresident@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Dave Unetich-Secretary (Secretary@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Tony Messina-Treasurer (Treasurer@wnytroutunlimited.org)

COMMITTEES

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

Education- **Bob Bohner**

Library- [**open**]

Membership- **Bob Bohner**

Fly Tying Sessions-**Dave Bollman**

Resource Protection-**Gary Coons** (Resource

Protection@wnytroutunlimited.org)

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.

(**Ric Toczek** webmaster@wnytroutunlimited.org)

Welcome- **Bob Bohner**

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.

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: The next chapter meeting will be held “virtually” (via “Zoom”) on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 7:30 p.m. Our presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the chapter meeting, will be Mr. James Markham of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Lake Erie Unit. He will discuss the steelhead fishery. This is always a highly informative presentation. Please join us, via your electronic device (computer, smart phone, etc.) on September 29. Details can be found in Mr. Chuck Godfrey’s President’s Message.

President’s Message:

Hi Everyone,

I’m going to open with one of my favorite quotes from my favorite author (John Gierach): “I used to like fishing because I thought it had some larger significance. Now I like fishing because it’s the one thing I can think of that probably doesn’t.” In these days of global pandemic – and who ever thought that would become a real thing – and political unrest on both sides of the spectrum in this country, fishing is one of the things that most of us can probably agree on. Of course, most of us probably don’t get to do it nearly often enough.

Now for the upbeat stuff. Although we can't hold in-person meetings at the moment, nor for the foreseeable future, we have been active on several fronts since our last meeting in February. We are going to resume our "normal" general Chapter meetings this month. However, they will be held in the *virtual universe* (italics added - Ed). We've purchased the Zoom technology necessary to hold virtual meetings. We used it this past Tuesday to hold a Board meeting and ran into only a couple of minor glitches. I've participated in one to four Zoom meetings per week since the end of March, and they've mostly gone well. Believe me, if I can deal with these successfully, anyone can. Bill Jedlicka will be sending out the necessary "Zoom invitation" via our newsletter email list and will explain exactly what needs to be done to "join" the meeting. It will occur on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. We'll have a very short session of updates, as at our in-person meetings; and, then, Jim Markham, of the DEC's Lake Erie Unit, will give a presentation on steelhead matters in the Lake Erie watershed, primarily the tributaries. You'll be able to view Jim's PowerPoint presentation on your own screens. In the invitation we send out, we'll give directions for asking questions. Welcome to the 21st century!

At our October virtual Chapter meeting we will be holding elections. The president's term is for 2 years; the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer terms are each one year. There are three Board seats up for election, also. These are for 3-year terms. Since we have delayed the elections by seven months, all terms will be shortened for seven months. The president's term will end in March of 2022, the other officers' in March of 2021, and the Board members' in March of 2023. Dave Unetich and Tony Messina have agreed to run for Sec. and Treas. respectively. Dave Bollman, Bill Jedlicka, and Spencer Schofield hold the three seats up for election this year and have chosen to run again. In addition, we have an open Board seat to fill out a term ending in March of 2022. Please consider becoming part of the leadership team. I've "term limited out" and will be leaving the presidency as of the October Chapter meeting. Brian Barry has chosen not to run for the Vice Presidency, so we need to fill those two offices. We have not had any luck so far finding someone to run for president, so, if we don't have anyone step forward, we will be without a president, as I will not continue. As we've mentioned before, there is a misconception that this takes an awful lot of time. It really doesn't. Most of what people see and read that I'm doing refers to roles that have nothing to do with the presidency. I plan on continuing all of those responsibilities, and Bob Bohner and I will be available to help in any way to assist a new president. Here is a list we've put together:

Monthly Time Requirements of Presidency: In Hours

All time estimates INCLUDE driving time.

General Chapter Meeting: 2 ½ - 3 hrs.

Preparation: Negligible. Since we have gone to present format, there really is no any prep time involved.

Write president's report for newsletter: less than ½ hour

Board Meeting:

Preparation: 1 ½ - 2 hrs. (Construct agenda for meeting.)

Meeting: 2 ½ hrs.

Weekly contact with Board members, committee chairs, etc.: Max. of 2 hrs. (still per month, not per week.)

This works out to 8 1/2 – 10 hours per month, and even that is somewhat misleading on the high side. In July and August, when we don't meet, there is just the 1 hour of keeping in touch with board members, etc. Also, our

board members have always been good about meeting their responsibilities on their own, so the president does not have to spend additional time on other people's jobs, as in many other organizations.

Chuck and Bob are both able and willing to support the new officers in the transition phase and beyond. Additionally, Chuck will keep up all his other responsibilities/commitments.

Obviously just about all of our in-person activities have been put on hold for the time being. I don't think any of us anticipate being able to do many of the things we've done historically. We won't have a Christmas Party, no in-person meetings until at least January, and our 50th anniversary celebration will be put off until our first or second in-person meeting next year. We can participate in some stream projects with the DEC, using proper health protection. Joe Morgan will inform people about that. In theory, we have the Niagara Falls show and the Expo at the Fairgrounds coming up in January and March; but, although there's been no decision made yet that we're aware of, I'm assuming at least the January show will be cancelled.

State Council: The State Council will be holding a general membership meeting in November. As the date and details are set, we'll inform you. This will be a virtual meeting, so it would be a great chance to see the Council in action without having to drive up to Altmar for the physical meeting. The DEC's Inland Trout Stream Management Plan has been finalized. What remains now is for the DEC to present to the public the new REGULATIONS for the syllabus. They've run a snag due to the desire to coordinate with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, which is doing the same thing on regulations for part(s) of the Delaware River watershed. When they become available, we will be sure to let you know so you can comment on them.

Trout in the Classroom: We have a mixed bag of participation this year but will be welcoming one new school. I'll update in the next newsletter.

Great Lakes Issues: Trout Unlimited has a Great Lakes Workgroup, of which I'm a member representing NYS. We're still monitoring the proposed wind turbine project in the NY and the Ohio waters of Lake Erie; but, until there is an application submitted for the NY project, there is not much to be reported. The Ohio project has received all necessary state and federal permits according to the Cleveland Plain-Dealer, but the company involved is suing Ohio over the condition imposed in the permit to turn off the windmills overnight for several months a year to protect bats and migrating birds, since it would make the pilot project "economically unfeasible." More to come on that in the future. In the meantime, the Workgroup has produced "A Case for The Great Lakes," a document/position paper on issues in the Great Lakes watershed affecting coldwater fisheries. (It will be an attachment to this newsletter.) This is considered a "living document" and will be changed from time to time as conditions warrant. For instance, there is no mention of wind turbines (or solar "farms"), which will be included as more information becomes available.

We all sincerely hope that that you and your families have been able to remain safe and relatively healthy throughout these trying times. We've been lucky enough that no one we know has gotten Covid-19, that they know of. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined anything like this. I'm 73 years-old and can remember "old" people (most of them probably younger than I am now) talking about the Spanish Flu when I was a kid. And now we're living through another one.

To finish on a happier note, let me paraphrase a quote from John Gierach. “Maybe your happiness as a fly fisherman isn’t determined by how big a fish you can catch, but by how small a fish you can catch without being disappointed.” I’m lucky enough to be able to get to Buffalo Creek in West Seneca and be in the creek 5 minutes after I leave my house. Went out on a recent Saturday and spent 1 ½ hours fishing with a 2-wt. for monsters like the ones in the two pictures I’ve attached. I had a ball. The bass was all of 7” and fought like crazy. Hope you’re all lucky enough



to be able to get out to wherever you want to fish; but, most of all, I hope that you all stay safe and healthy.

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 adkruss@gmail.com. Russ Shefrin, Newsletter Editor.
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing:** **Mr. David Bollman** advises us that all PHWFF activities have been suspended through Dec. 31,2020.
- **Membership Chairman, Mr. Bob Bohner writes:** “New Local WNYTU member has one-year fly fishing, a decent cast and wants to learn about WNY waters and more about conservation and fly fishing..... especially [for] brookies and steelhead.” He would like to find a mentor/fishing buddy. His name is Matt Wilson, and he can be contacted at Mdwilson7985@gmail.com.
- **Stream Conservation Report – by Mr. Joseph Morgan:** Due to the Covid 19 virus, a number of volunteer stream projects were put on hold this Spring and Summer. They included stream clean-ups, tree planting and habitat work. The NYDEC helped out and planted trees along Wiscoy and East Koy Creek in

early spring. Our chapter provided the stakes, and the Wyoming County Soil and Water District reimbursed our chapter for the cost of the tree tubes. The NYDEC also assisted in doing some repair work on the Lunker Structures on the North Branch of Wiscoy Creek. We are tentatively scheduled to finish the tree planting at the Albro bridge site on Wiscoy Creek in late October. National TU has indicated that outdoor work can be resumed as long as Covid 19 guidelines are practiced. I will provide more information in next month's newsletter.

- **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
- **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 May 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020** (Submitted by **Mr. Anthony Messina**):

		prior period thru 04/30/20	this period thru 05/31/20
(CHECKING ACCT)			
BALANCE			
AT	APRIL 1, 2020	\$1,172.33	
BALANCE			
AT	MAY 1, 2020		\$2,685.58
INFLOWS:	TRANSFER FROM MONEY MARKET ACCT.	\$500.00	
	GRANT FROM STATE COUNCIL	\$4,000.00	
	See Cash Receipt Below		
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	BOND INSURANCE	\$100.00	
	STREAM PROJECTS	\$1,346.75	
	BROCHURES PRINTING	\$1,540.00	
	STREAM PROJECTS (Reimb from Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District)		(\$878.00)
	TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$2,986.75	(\$878.00)
BALANCE			
AT	APRIL 30, 2020	\$2,685.58	
BALANCE			
AT	MAY 31, 2020		\$3,563.58

		*****	*****
		prior period	this period
		thru 04/30/20	thru 05/31/20
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 1, 2020	\$27,372.10	
BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2020		\$26,872.54
INFLOWS:	INTEREST	\$0.44	\$0.46
		TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.44
OUTFLOWS:	TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCT.	\$500.00	\$0.00
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$500.00
BALANCE AT	APRIL 30, 2020	\$26,872.54	
BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2020		\$26,873.00

		*****	*****
		prior period	this period
		thru 04/30/20	thru 05/31/20
		(RESTRICTED FNDS)	
BALANCE AT	APRIL 1, 2020	\$10,000.00	
BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2020		\$10,000.00
INFLOWS:	NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	APRIL 30, 2020	\$10,000.00	
BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2020		\$10,000.00

Treasurer's Report for the Period June 1, 2020 – August 31,2020 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):

		prior period	this period
		thru 05/31/20	thru 08/31/20
		(CHECKING ACCT)	
BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2020	\$2,685.58	

BALANCE AT	JUNE 1, 2020			\$3,563.58
INFLOWS:	See Cash Receipt Below			
		TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	STREAM PROJECTS (Reimb from Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District)		(\$878.00)	
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	(\$878.00)	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2020		\$3,563.58	
BALANCE AT	AUGUST 31, 2020			\$3,563.58

			*****	*****
			prior period	this period
			thru 05/31/20	thru 08/31/20
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2020		\$26,872.54	
BALANCE AT	JUNE 1, 2020			\$26,873.00
INFLOWS:	INTEREST - June, July and August		\$0.46	\$0.89
		TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$0.46	\$0.89
OUTFLOWS:	TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCT.		\$0.00	\$0.00
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	MAY 31, 2020		\$26,873.00	
BALANCE AT	AUGUST 31, 2020			\$26,873.89

			*****	*****
			prior period	this period
			thru 05/31/20	thru 08/31/20
		(RESTRICTED FUNDS)		
BALANCE AT	MAY 1, 2020		\$10,000.00	
BALANCE AT	JUNE 1, 2020			\$10,000.00
INFLOWS:	NONE		\$0.00	\$0.00

OUTFLOWS:	NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE			
AT	MAY 31, 2020	\$10,000.00	
BALANCE			
AT	AUGUST 31, 2020		\$10,000.00



Photography:

Here, to remind of us of how much we value a clean environment and a healthy cold-water fishery, is a pleasant image submitted by WNYTU member, **Mr. Dave Hewitt**. Pictured are a nice Brown Trout, caught on Oatka Creek, and the Size 10 “Dave’s Hopper” which Dave tied.



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