

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited

February 2007

## **OFFICERS**

### **Dee Maciejewski-President**

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### **Gene Romanyshyn-Vice President**

72 Yvonne Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14225 (835-3938)

### **Gary Coons--Secretary**

7329 Townline Rd, N. Tonawanda NY 14120 (695-1003)

### **Tony Messina-Treasurer**

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

## **COMMITTEES**

Awards-**Ed Luba** (648-9732)

Education-**Greg Waild** [gresdell@adelphia.net](mailto:gresdell@adelphia.net)

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-**Jason Czora** (875-4754) **Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

Stream Clean-ups-**Chuck Godfrey** (675-0057)

Sunshine-**Dee Maciejewski** (655-1331)

Website: **Jim Stachowski** (693-6539)

Welcome-**Len Bigaj** (826-4178)

Video Library-**Jim Zak** (894-7301)

Erie County Federation Reps:

**Chuck Godfrey** (675-0057) steelheader@cheekcentfcu.net

State Council Delegates:

**Dee Maciejewski** (655-1331)

**Don Klug** ([chloecali2595@aol.com](mailto:chloecali2595@aol.com))

Newsletter: **Vince Tobia**

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## **President's Report**

We always have a great turnout at the meetings with our good friends from the DEC! Thanks to **Paul McKeown, Scott Cornett and Jim Zanett** for an informative evening.

I want to congratulate our new Vice President, **Gene Romanyshyn**, and welcome him to the WNYTU Board of Directors.

**Greg Waild** has stepped forward to become the new Education Chairman. Thank you Greg!

Again, I am stressing the great need for someone to take over the position of **WEBMASTER!** We need someone with the knowledge and skills to set up and maintain a new WNYTU website. In this electronic age, I would think that out of 550 members, there is at least one person with the talent and energy to create a basic site and monitor it for the Chapter. The BOD is also considering additional ways to get information to our members.

Our next meeting is February 27th, and **ECO (Environmental Conservation Officer) Scott Marshall** will be present to share information and answer your questions.

**Please make note that our MARCH meeting will be held on the 20th, NOT the 27th, as there is a conflict with the Post.**

Again, we'll see you February 27th w/ **ECO Scott Marshall**.

On March 20th, **Greg Waild** will show us how to make his hand tied braided leaders.

Please come to your meetings, and bring a friend. Come early (6PM), and tie flies!

**Dee Maciejewski, President**

## **Anglers Choice Taxidermy**

World Class Fish Taxidermy  
By Artist/Taxidermist **Peter T. Di Rado**  
[www.anglerschoicetaxidermy.com](http://www.anglerschoicetaxidermy.com)  
716-537-9753

**WNY TU Chapter Meeting:** Tuesday, February 27, 2007, 7:30 pm at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Environmental Conservation Officer Scott Marshall** will be on hand to speak to our club, and he will save time for answering any questions people may have. **Fly Tying will start at 6PM** when we will be tying black stoneflies. Please bring black thread.

### **New Website for Region 9**

Region 9 Fisheries has their own web page on the DEC website now with a bunch of info for the Region's fishing opportunities, trout and otherwise. To get there either type in: [www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/reg9fish](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/reg9fish) or at [www.dec.state.ny.us/](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/) website type in "Region 9 fisheries" in the search section and click on "Fishing in Western NY".

### **Outdoor Sport & Travel Expo**

The outdoor sport and travel expo is set for March 8th thru 11<sup>th</sup>. Show hours are Wednesday March 7th from 12pm to 9pm; Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 9pm; Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 9pm; Saturday March 10th from 10am to 9pm and Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 5pm. If you can help us out, please call me at 826-4178. I have free passes for volunteers and will have a sign up sheet at the February meeting. **Len Bigaj**

### **Election results**

**Gene Romanyshyn is our chapter's new vice President. Congratulations Gene!!**

### **Fishing Partner Connection**

We are starting a new column for those looking for a fishing partner: **Fishing Buddy Wanted.** If you'd like to share your day on the water with someone, e-mail Editor **Vince Tobia @ vtobia@aol.com**. He will put your contact info in the newsletter. To get in touch with your partner, contact them directly. Include your name, telephone #, and e-mail address.

**Bill Swartz** 716-741-2563  
[flytyer72001@yahoo.com](mailto:flytyer72001@yahoo.com)

**Larry Jakubowski** 716-684-9755  
[jake14086@yahoo.com](mailto:jake14086@yahoo.com)

### **Fly Tying**

Thanks to **Craig Zink, Jim Logel, Bill Swartz, Tom Kielb, Dave Unetich, Greg Waild**. We tied 30 Ausable Wulffs at the February meeting.

Thanks to **David Bollman** for tying and donating one dozen wulffs and one dozen caddis flies.

Thank You All

**Len Bigaj**

## **Webmaster Wanted**

Do you have computer talents that you're keeping secret? Are you savvy at setting up websites and writing software programs? Are you willing to maintain a website? Are you looking for a way to help TU by donating your services in this regard?

YOU could be the individual your chapter is looking for!! You could become another revered TU Volunteer just by sharing your knowledge and expertise. Websites have become a necessity! Be our Spiderman or Spiderwoman!! **Be WNY Trout Unlimited's Webmaster!!** Seriously, we really need someone to step forward and manage this vital area, so information can be available to our members, and prospective members!! Call **Dee at 655-1331**.

## **Springville Dam Fish Ladder Update**

There needs to be a feasibility study completed. It will cost about \$600,000 and the DEC is responsible for 25% of it. The DEC has not yet OK'd spending the money, so the study has not yet been started. Further updates to follow.

## **18 Mile Creek Parking Lot Update**

The fishing access parking lot on South Creek road in Hamburg, that was under construction in the Fall, is currently in limbo. The local residents were against it, and got the DEC to temporarily halt construction. The DEC is completing a SEQRA on the parking lot, after which DEC administration will make a decision on whether to proceed with construction. Then the Town will be notified of the decision.

## **DEC Spoke at January Meeting**

In case you were not at the January meeting, the NYSDEC spoke about the wiscoy shocking results, angler diary program results, new fishing regulations, spring brook updates, electro fishing for 2007, and the new PFR acquisitions. If you need more detailed info on what was discussed, e-mail the Editor Vince Tobia for a full report.

## **Region 9 Angler Diary Program**

The DEC Region 9 Fisheries Office will be running an angler diary program for Clear Creek (Arcade), Lime Lake Outlet, McKinstry Creek and Hosmer Brook during 2007 and is currently looking for anglers to keep diaries. If you fish any of the listed waters (even once) and would like to keep a diary for DEC please call the DEC Fisheries Office at (716) 372-0645 or e-mail at [fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwfish9@gw.dec.state.ny.us). The program will run March 1st through November 30th. This program duplicates one run in 2000 and will be used in conjunction with a late-summer electrofishing survey to evaluate the fishery's overall quality. In 2000, 101 anglers signed up for the program.

## **Annual Banquet and Fund Raiser**

The Erie County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs will hold their annual banquet on March 3, 2007, at the Father Justin Hall on Union Road in Cheektowaga. The sit-down dinner event includes an all-night open bar and a friendly evening of warm entertainment for all sportsmen. These guys and girls really need our support. The banquet helps to keep their youth and support activities solvent for the year. Donations are always welcome too!

**Date:** March 3, 2007

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Social Hour (open bar)

7:00 p.m. Sit-down Dinner

**Where:** Father Justin's Knights of Columbus Hall

2735 Union Road

Cheektowaga, New York 14225

**Tickets:** \$40 per person, \$70 per couple

**Make check payable to:** Erie County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs, Inc.

**Send Checks to:** Dan Tone, 1829 Davis Road, West Falls New York 14170

## **Draft Sportfishing Restoration and Spending Plan for Lake Ontario**

Last June, the DEC and the Attorney General's office reached a settlement of their lawsuit against Occidental Chemical Corporation to address pollution problems related to Occidental's main chemical manufacturing plant. The settlement addresses the damages caused as result of the discharge of dangerous chemicals from the company's main plant on Buffalo Avenue in Niagara Falls and from other sites and facilities either owned or operated by Occidental. The company agreed to pay the state \$12 million in five equal payments over four years to support projects to improve the area's recreational fishing.

The draft plan for the \$12 million settlement associated with the natural resource damage (NRD) Restoration and Spending Plan was open for public comment on February 15. More info to follow on this issue as it becomes available.

### **Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)**

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus is a serious pathogen of fresh and saltwater fish that is causing an emerging disease in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. VHS virus is a rhabdovirus (rod shaped virus) that affects fish of all size and age ranges. It does not pose any threat to human health. VHS can cause hemorrhaging of fish tissue, including internal organs, and can cause the death of infected fish. Once a fish is infected with VHS, there is no known cure. Not all infected fish develop the disease, but they can carry and spread the disease to other fish. VHS has been blamed for fish kills in Lake St. Clair (MI), Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and Conesus Lake (Western NY). The World Organization of Animal Health has categorized VHS as a transmissible disease with the potential for profound socio-economic consequences. Because of this, they list VHS as a disease that should be reported to the international community as an exceptional epidemiological (study of diseases in large populations) occurrence.

#### **What can be done to prevent the spread of VHS?**

To reduce the likelihood of spreading VHS in New York State, DEC encourages anglers and boaters to abide by the following guidelines:

- Remove all mud, aquatic plants and animals from all gear, boats, motors and trailers before leaving a body of water;
- Drain your live well, bilge and bait tanks before leaving the water you are fishing or boating on. Anglers or boaters using any waterbody known to be infected with the VHS virus should disinfect their live wells and bait wells with a 10 percent chlorine/water solution. Rinse well to remove all residual chlorine;
- Do not transport fish from one body of water to another. Note that this practice is illegal without a DEC fish stocking permit;
- Only release bait fish into the waterbody it was taken from. Bait purchased commercially should not be released into any body of water; and
- Do not dispose of fish carcasses or by-products in any body of water.

#### **What are the clinical signs of VHS?**

The clinical signs of VHS may include tissue hemorrhaging (bleeding), unusual behavior, anemia, bulging eyes, bloated abdomens, and the rapid onset of death; however, these symptoms could apply to many different fish diseases. There is no clear visual diagnostic to confirm VHS. Additionally, not all fish infected show any signs and may become carriers of the disease. The only way to confirm VHS is to test the fish in a lab.

#### **How is VHS spread?**

VHS can be spread from one waterbody to the next through a variety of means, not all of which are known at this time. One known method of spreading VHS is moving fish from one waterbody to another. This can be done by importation, stocking, or the use of bait fish. Other potential sources of VHS spreading are natural fish movements, recreational boating/angling, bird assistance, ballast water discharge, and sampling activities.

**For more info visit this website:** <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/vhsv.html>