

# TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited ([www.wnytroutunlimited.org](http://www.wnytroutunlimited.org)) April, 2009

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(This edition of the newsletter is available only in electronic format.)

**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 7:30 pm** at the **Donovan American Legion Post**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. **Fly tying begins at 6pm. Please bring white thread, because we will be tying Pink and White Woolly Buggers.**

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be your faithful editor, Russ Shefrin, who will discuss “What Did He Know and How Did He Know It?: The Sensory and Perceptual World of the Trout”. Topics will include some of the remarkable sensory abilities of the trout, thoughts on implications for cold water fisheries conservation, and on the sensory world and mind of the aging fly fisher. Please join us.

## President’s Report

I want to thank Jim Zak for his presentation, during the March meeting, on guides and guiding in New York. If you’ve not experienced a guided trip into an unknown area, a well informed and experienced guide makes the adventure.

April is an exciting month for the fly fisherman in Western NY. The daffodils are up, the lilacs are budding. Steelhead are still in the creeks, and the dark flies of the inland small streams are starting their evening hatches. What diversity we have and are privileged to be a part of!

Stream improvement and cleanup projects are in the works. Ric Toczek is the Point of Contact for our stream clean up, which is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in April. TU is hosting a national stream clean-up day on June 13, 2009. Take a look at the National website ([TUday@tu.org](mailto:TUday@tu.org)) for more info on how you can volunteer.

Many e-mails have been exchanged concerning the Sporting License fee increases. The DEC website has the entire information package. I have attached the PDF file for the October 1, 2009 increases.

I'm going to let Len Bigaj tell you about the Erie County Fair booth, August 12 thru 23, 2009.

For those of you that have gotten involved in Project Healing Waters, you now know that the fly tying sessions are over for the spring/summer. It's time to go fishing! As of this writing, there are at least 11 events scheduled for Project Healing Waters fishing. There is no such thing as too many volunteers for these events. Ideally, we want to see each of our Vets one-on-one with a volunteer. This will go a long way toward making the veterans' day a-field a memorable occasion, with the full attention they deserve.

Stream projects, though not thought of as taking place in the cooler months, are being monitored on a regular basis. Our joint project with the Red House Brook Chapter continues to be our focus. Oatka Creek tree planting is tentatively planned for the first Sunday in May, pending arrival of seedling trees. Chuck Godfrey is your POC.

As you venture onto the area streams, keep our mission in mind. "Conserve, protect, and restore". If you see something that "doesn't look right", fire off an e-mail, or make a phone call.

April's guest speaker will be Russ Shefrin, our newsletter editor. I'll let Russ fill you in on his presentation.

Lastly, some of you will recognize this name immediately: Dr. Jack Black. An ardent TU supporter and enthusiast, Dr. Black passed away, at the age of 74, on Monday April 13, 2009. For the entire article on his passing, follow this link. <http://www.buffalonews.com/obituaries/story/635690.html>. (Ed. Note: Dr. Black's essay, "The Rebirth of Pennsylvania's Big Spring", was published in our May, 2008, newsletter.)

See you at the meeting...

Gary Coons, President

## **Announcements**

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:** The annual TU Banquet was held on March 21 at Lucarelli's and was a great success. I would like to thank all our members for their help with cash donations and auction items. In particular, I want to mention **Gary** and **Ann Coons** for their help in setting up the banquet hall; **Paul Maciejewski**, our auctioneer; **Jim Stachowski**, our Master of Ceremonies; and **Dave Tooke**, who handled the awards; the Donation Committee, **LeeAnn Bigaj**, **Maria** and **Andrea Marracino**, and **my children** for helping with the sale of raffle tickets and for their contribution to making the banquet run smoothly. Thanks to all of you for making this year's banquet the best so far. I would also like to extend a special thank you to **George Klemens** and **Judi Shelton** for donating the use of their beautiful home in West Yellowstone, Montana, and to **Tom Cornell** for donating a guided float trip. Both were auctioned at the banquet. All told, we made \$8,454 that evening.

The winner of our Grand Prize 42" TV was **Nick DeFilippo**. Nick also donated the Discover Scuba Diving certificates, which were used at the banquet.

I was deeply touched to receive the Cal Authur President's Award and the Rick Kinecki Humanitarian Award. These truly mean a lot to me.

Planning for the 2010 banquet is already underway. If you would like to be Chair or to help with the committee, please let me know.

Finally, thanks to all who attended this year's event. Your presence and participation are very much appreciated.

**2009 W.N.Y. Sport and Travel Expo:** We owe special thanks to Ed Luba, Gary Coons, Jim Zak, Ray Kegler, Craig Zink, Jim Stachowski, Antoinette Grote and he dad, Jerry, for taking over for me while I tended to my wife, Linda, who was in the hospital and had open heart surgery on Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. We earned \$613.00 at the show, with \$546 in fly sales.

**Project Healing Waters:** I received twelve new fly rods, reels, line, twelve new fly tying kits, (with tools), threads and hooks, all for use in the project. The agenda for fishing with the veterans this summer (at the Elma Conservation Club) is: April 24, 10am; May 12, 10am; June 6, 10am; June 19, 10am; July 14, 10am. (Fishing is also scheduled for August 5, August 28, Sept. 15 and October 7.)

- **News from DEC:** Mr. Scott Cornett has notified us that all the new and updated Region 9 PFR maps are now on the DEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/44879.html>.
- **Tree Planting:** Mr. Chuck Godfrey reports that trees will be arriving from the DEC nursery in late April, though the exact date is not known at this time. The goal is to plant some of them on the Kennedy property on the Oatka and some on the Wiscoy, probably the first weekend in May. As soon as Mr. Godfrey has the dates, which probably won't be until the last week in April, he will let us know. People can contact Mr. Godfrey, by phone or email, to stay updated. He will be sending notices to all who email him once the dates are known for certain.
- **More from the Adirondacks:** In our March, 2009, newsletter, I jokingly noted that, given the fire at The Hungry Trout, those of you with reservations for an Ausable fishing trip ought to check on whether they still exist. That note prompted Mr. John Fik, now a resident of the North Country, to remind me that there are lots of good fishing opportunities up there beside the Ausable. He provided this website for further information: <http://www.myoutdoortv.com/>. He advises that those interested check out that link and click on "Adirondack Trails".
- **Charles Arrick Youth Raffle (by Dee Maciejewski):** Do you know a young person who is a beginner at fishing and would like to try fly fishing? At our June 30th meeting, we will hold our Second Annual Youth Raffle. Last year, Charles Arrick, one of WNYTU's original members, donated his fly fishing equipment to us, with the stipulation that young beginner fly fishers would be the recipients. This year, we have decided to continue the "tradition" and have named the event for Mr. Arrick, who recently passed away. His wife has graciously donated money for this year's raffle, and there will be an assortment of prizes for the lucky winners. Please enter the name of a youth, up to the age of 19, whom you know will benefit from this raffle. Send the name, age and phone number of the person to President Gary Coons or to me, Dee Maciejewski, at [dryfly@roadrunner.com](mailto:dryfly@roadrunner.com).
- **DEC Summer Youth Camps:** For great youth oriented conservation-related opportunities, please keep in mind the DEC Summer Environmental Education Camps. These include "Camp Colby", near Saranac Lake in the northern Adirondacks; "Pack Forest", north of Warrensburg in the southern Adirondacks; "Camp DeBruce", located in the southern Catskills; and "Camp Rushford", right here in our "backyard" at the Hanging Bog Wildlife Management Area. More information can be found at the DEC website. (Try <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>). Chuck Godfrey reports that the Erie County Federation sends

five youth each year. Also, the DEC has a program to help low income youngsters make the experience more affordable. Information on the scholarship can be obtained from the DEC Region 9 office.

- **Editor’s Note:** Our “Trout Talk” newsletter is published in electronic format each month except for July, August, and December. In order to contain costs, the print version is only available five times a year (January, February, June, September, and November). 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 electronic version (which is sent to them via email). It would help our organization considerably (and perhaps save some trees!) if more of our members agreed to this arrangement. There is a further advantage to the subscriber. Specifically, the electronic version usually has more items than does the print version, often has pictures, etc., all because its length is not as constrained as is the paper form. Won’t you please consider adding your name to the list of those who receive, via e-mail, only the electronic newsletter? All you have to do is send me your e-mail and “snail mail” addresses so that I can add you to the electronic mailing list and remove your name from the paper mailing list. Please give this matter some serious consideration. I can be reached at [AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com).
- **Call for Articles:** Have a story to tell about on-stream experiences, cold water fisheries conservation, improving one’s fishing skills, understanding salmonids, etc.? Why not send it here and see if it is suitable for our newsletter? Just email it to me, and I’ll take a look. Or, if you have an idea, but would like some assistance in putting it into words, let me know; I might be able to help. Looking forward to hearing from you! Russ Shefrin, Editor. ([AdkRuss@roadrunner.com](mailto:AdkRuss@roadrunner.com).)



### Here are some TU celebrities at the March, 2009, Banquet:



Dave Unetich (right) Receives his Rising Trout Award from Chapter President, Gary Coons.



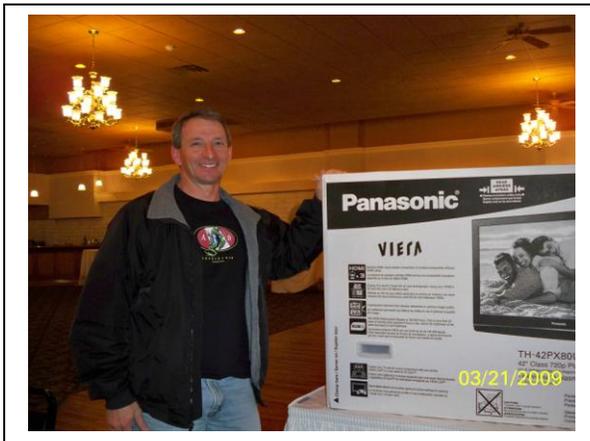
Dee Maciejewski is Presented with The Silver Trout Award by Awards Chairman, Dave Tooke.



Len Bigaj Accepts the Cal Arthur President's Award from Phyllis Arthur, widow of Cal Arthur.



Andrea Marracino Presents Len Bigaj with a Painting.



Grand Prize Winner, Nick DeFilippo, With His New TV.



Paul Maciejewski hones his bike riding skills.



Gary Goons congratulates the winners of the Cold Water Fisheries Enhancement Awards (At left, Paul McKeown, DEC Region 9, Accepts For Scott Cornett, DEC Fisheries Biologist, and for Joe Evans, DEC Fisheries Biologist-Retired; Raymond Li, Lower Great Lakes Fisheries Biologist, USFWS, is second from left; at far left is Chuck Godfrey, WNY TU Stream Projects Chairman.)

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