

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) April 2016

OFFICERS

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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-**Nick Pionessa**

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

Fly tying sessions-**Dave Bollman**

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

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

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

Spring Banquet- **David LaRoche**

Conservation-**Chuck Godfrey** (440-6995)

Sunshine- **Chuck Godfrey**

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

Welcome- **Dave Bollman**

Video Library- (vacant)

Erie County Federation Reps:

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

Debbie Godfrey

State Council Delegates:

Chuck Godfrey (440-6995)

Gene Romanyshyn, Debbie Godfrey, Dee Maciejewski

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

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Label

Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 7:30 pm, at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying starts at 6 p.m. Please bring olive thread, because we will be tying the Olive Woolly Bugger.

(Editor's Note: As of "press time", I have no information on whether there will be an "entertainment" portion of the Chapter meeting.)

Announcements

- **A Report from Mr. David Bollman:**

Shows: We are **urgently** looking for people to tie flies and to donate them to the Chapter so that we can sell them at the Fair. Our fly boxes were depleted at the WNY Sportsmen's Show and Expo. Please contact me, Dave, at 697-3807, for a list of flies we need. And, a special "Thanks" goes out to all who staffed the Sportsmen's and Travel Expo booth in my absence and to those fly tyers who helped to tie flies with the youngsters on Sunday. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

More on Fly Tying: We would like to thank **Mr. Paul Kneis** for donating fly tying material, to the chapter, as a legacy to **Mr. Warren Hammond**. Secondly, **Mr. Frank DeGeorge** will bring fly tying material to the next chapter meeting to see if people are interested in buying any of it.

Education: On April 18, 2016, we will be presenting a fly casting demonstration to Troop 173 of Amherst at 7:30 pm.

Project Healing Waters: The last fly tying class for this season was held at the Buffalo V.A. on April 14. I would like to thank **Mr. Bill Koerner, Mr. Kevin O'Neill, Mr. Gary Coons, Mr. Justin Borgosz,** and **Mr. Bill Schwartz** for participating in the final class with the Vets.

We will begin fishing with the Veterans at Elma on May 18, 2016; and the Forestville Picnic (at Mooney's Camp) will take place on June 25, 2016.

There will be a "Salmon Slam" on July 30, 2016. This event has been extended to 45 – 50 Veterans.

The final Amherst fly tying class will be on Thursday, April 21, at the Vet Center on Sweet Home Road.

WNY Trout Unlimited Chapter Picnic: Our annual picnic is scheduled for June 18, 2016, at Como Lake Park. Hope to see you there!

- **Report from WNYTU Chapter Vice President, Mr. Gene Romanyshyn:** Our chapter is always looking for entertainment for our monthly meetings. We are reaching out to all the readers of our newsletter and asking them if they would be willing to do a presentation. This invitation is extended not only to members, but, also, to anyone our members may know who would like to give a presentation on trout, water, conservation, environmental issues, or related matters. If anyone is interested, please contact WNYTU at wnytroutunlimited@gmail.com.

We also are looking for ways to get more flies tied for the Erie County Fair, where we sell them for the chapter. We are appealing to all Trout Unlimited members to tie flies and to donate them for sale at the fair and other shows. Currently, we have just a handful of members who are trying to tie hundreds of flies. If anyone is interested in helping out, he or she could contact **Mr. Dave Bollman** at flyman377@yahoo.com or could even bring them to a meeting. We hope to hear from you!

- **Great Camp Sagamore "Trout Powers Father's Day Weekend":** **Mr. Kevin O'Neill** would like us to be aware of an event at Great Camp Sagamore, on Sagamore Lake, in the Adirondacks, from June 16 through June 19, 2016. It is the "Trout Powers Father's Day Weekend". According to the event brochure, *"By participating as a member of Trout Power 2016, you will be asked to fly fish, catch and release and document your catch for scientific creel study. In conjunction with the New York State Museum, Trout Power and Trout Un-limited, you will follow special, protocols to sample and photograph the fish you catch and then let them go. In an effort to determine if real heritage strain brook trout are in these waters, we need to be calculating and scientific. JP Ross will teach you the methods as you sign up for the sections of river that you will discover and document."* For further information, Mr. O'Neill has provided these links: <http://greatcampsagamore.org/troutpower/> and <http://greatcampsagamore.org/>.
- **Face Book:** **Mr. Bill Jedlicka** writes: "We invite you to visit Western New York Trout Unlimited on Facebook. Please "Like" the page and "Share" it with your Facebook friends. It's a great way to spread the word about the important things WNYTU does in the area and can help interested people (including current or, perhaps, future members) stay informed about upcoming activities. And feel free to post some of your favorite fishing or fly tying photos as well!"

- **From Mr. Chuck Godfrey, WNYTU’s Representative at the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, State Council Delegate, WNYTU Conservation Committee Chair:**

Buffalo Niagara River Keeper Programs:

The second announcement is of the “Spring Shoreline Sweep – 2016”, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, from 10am to 12pm, at 40 sites across Western New York. Presumably, you can learn more about these programs, and register, by contacting Buffalo Niagara River Keeper at <http://bnriverkeeper.org>.

Finally, the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited is operating a **Trout Youth Camp** this summer. The brochure is included as the third attachment to this newsletter, unless you have requested no such attachments.

Trout Unlimited Membership: TU is trying to increase membership and in an effort to do so, it is offering the opportunity of adding family memberships at no cost to present members. You may sign up spouses/partners and/or children. One copy of *Trout* magazine will be sent to each family, and a complimentary copy of *Stream Explorers* magazine will be sent to the youth in each household. It’s really easy to add family members, but you will need to have your membership number to do so. It can be found on your membership card or your *Trout* magazine label. Existing members with a family membership should go to: <https://gifts.tumembership.org/familyaddition>.

Existing members with a different type of membership should go to: <https://gifts.tumembership.org/family-membership-upgrade-form>.

People who are not yet members should start with:

<https://gifts.tumembership.org/member/intro>. This will allow new members to sign up for half-price and then to add family members as well.

- **Treasurer’s Report for the period ending March 31, 2016 (prepared by Mr. Anthony Messina):**

		prior period thru 02/29/16	this period thru 03/31/16
	(CHECKING ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 1, 2016	\$598.62	
BALANCE AT	MARCH 1, 2016		\$478.81
INFLOWS:	TRANSFER FROM MONEY MKT	\$500.00	
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$500.00	\$0.00
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING	\$70.00	
	MEMBERSHIP DUES - EC FED.	\$135.00	
	WEBSITE		
	DOMAIN/HOSTING	\$414.81	

		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$619.81	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 29, 2016		\$478.81	
BALANCE AT	MARCH 31, 2016			\$478.81

			prior period thru 02/29/16	this period thru 03/31/16
		(MONEY MKT ACCT)		
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 1, 2016		\$25,250.88	
BALANCE AT	MARCH 1, 2016			\$24,751.28
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$0.40	\$0.42
OUTFLOWS:	TRANSFER TO CHECKING		\$500.00	\$0.00
BALANCE AT	FEBRUARY 29, 2016		\$24,751.28	
BALANCE AT	MARCH 31, 2016			\$24,751.70

- Editor's Note: 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 twice a year (September and January). 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 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@roadrunner.com



(Keep reading, there is more on the next few pages! Ed.)

Article



Lenny Bigaj

Western New York Trout Unlimited Annual Banquet



2016 Banquet Report

By David LaRoche

I would like to take a moment to thank the following people for helping throughout the banquet planning process and for assisting on the day of the event.

Bill Jedlicka – sharing your banquet experience got me through the process – I was lost and you showed me the way!

Your talented, knowledgeable Board of Directors for their insight and recollections of how Lenny did the banquet, so I could attempt approaching his incredible successes – BTW – no one will **ever** do it as well or better than Lenny!

Dave Bollman and his lovely wife – helping my wife at the registration table was so totally appreciated – she's still telling me how she could not have made it through the first hour without you two. I don't even want to think of what she'd be telling me if she was at the table alone! If she would even be talking to me!

George Welsh – You were the first one to volunteer and one of the last to leave the event – Thank you so much for your help and support. I'm forever grateful.

Gary Coons – What can I possibly say about Gary that would come close to expressing how grateful I am that you pulled my miserable butt out of the fire the night of the banquet?

You sent me an email offering your projector while I was struggling to link my laptop with the chapter projector.
THANK YOU!

You offered to give the Invocation, and when giving it, you were insightful, sincere and incredibly sensitive and perceptive. THANK YOU!

You were the consummate host – entertaining the crowd, and keeping the banquet moving and keeping me on track and adlibbing spontaneous live auctions and doing the most incredible job with revealing the winner of the card game and the Lenny Special rod and reel combo #001. (Won by Russell Shefrin, our outstanding Newsletter Editor and Guru.) AWESOME!!!!

I'd also like to thank our sponsors – both Corporate and personal. Without your support with donations and auction items we would have lost money instead of being profitable.

I urge all of you to look first to these fine companies when considering services they can provide, and I want to thank the members who generously donated to the First Lenny Bigaj WNY Trout Unlimited Banquet.

- Orvis
- Oak Orchard Tackle & Lodge
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- Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters
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- Buffalo Sabres
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- *Bova Family Chiropractic*
- Frank Lucas
- Cherie Hartwick, Pen-Zen.com
- DavesFlyBench.com
- Ellen Gotthelf
- Tom Stamboulis
- George Welsh
- Scott Cornett
- Henry Lipiew
- Russell's Steaks, Chops & More
- Antoinette Grote
- Gene Romanyshyn
- Dave Unetich
- Tony Messina
- Jim Budny
- Don Kwiatkowski
- David Bollman
- Bill Jedlicka
- Spencer Schofield
- Debbie Godfrey
- Chuck Godfrey

To all that attended the Banquet – THANK YOU!

To those who did not attend – you missed a good party!

Better luck next year!

Dave LaRoche

Photos:

Chapter President, **Ms. Antoinette Grote** sends this image of **A.J. Bax**, Lewiston, N.Y., a proud winner at the recent Sportsmen’s Show. Congratulations, A.J.!



Mr. Gary Coons recorded the presentation, to the family of the late **Mr. Len Bigaj**, of a plaque in his honor. The memento was given to Len’s family at the annual WNY Trout Unlimited banquet in March, 2016. From now on, this essential fundraiser will carry Len’s name, in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of our local chapter. Mr. Coons notes that the family was not aware the banquet would be named after Len in perpetuity. They were deeply moved.



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