

# TROUT TALK

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

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(Ed. Note: This newsletter is an expanded version of the print edition.)

**Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly Tying will start at 6 pm. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying Black Ants.**

The presenter, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be the well-known guide, Tom Cornell, who will put on a slide show about fishing in Montana and Yellowstone Park. Tom is from Tonawanda but now guides full time out of Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone. Please join us.

## President’s Report

Our warm weather and mid-winter thaw has brought on thoughts of Spring Steelhead fishing. I’m sure I am not alone when I reminisce. Most other outdoor activities are closed or well past their prime.

January’s meeting was one of the “don’t miss” meetings for the year. Scott Cornett did an awesome presentation on the state of the western New York fisheries. I’m sure that Joe Evans (DEC Region 9 Fisheries biologist, RETIRED) had no intention of being anything but a guest at our meeting. However, the wealth of knowledge he and Scott possess made the evening more informative than “just entertainment”.

February's guest speaker is sure to conjure up thoughts of westerly journeys and big dry flies. I'll let Don Kwiatkowski & Russ Shefrin fill you in on the rest. (Ed. Note: See "Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting".)

This year's banquet sees a change in venue to Lucarelli's Banquet Center and is set for March 21, 2009. You may have noticed the grand prize for the raffle is NOT a fishing rod but a wide screen television. For the fishing community that thinks they have all the equipment they need (no such thing as too many fly rods), this year's banquet is sure to please all members of the family and acquaintances. The list of prizes and auction items surprised me. This one isn't just for "the guys". (Sorry if I offend anyone here). Len & his committee have lined up a fantastic evening for the largest fund raiser we offer during the year. I want to encourage all of you to attend and, by all means, to bring a guest.

See you at the meeting... Gary Coons, President

## **Announcements**

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:** Our annual Banquet fund raiser will be held on March 21, 2009, at Lucarelli's Banquet Center, 1831 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, N.Y. (The location is 1-1/2 miles south of Ridge Road and 3 miles north of Ralph Wilson Stadium.) Tickets are \$30.00. We have some exciting items for auction, including Orvis and Diamondback rods, airline tickets anywhere Southwest flies, guide trips, grills, and more. We also have a "Ladies Table" with great gifts. Please attend and help to make this the best banquet ever. Without your assistance, WNY TU cannot exist. Kindly get your tickets ASAP, because I have to order the food.

A Grand Prize drawing will be held at the Banquet. This year, the prize will be a Panasonic 42" HD Plasma TV, which was donated by West Herr Automotive Group and Stereo Advantage. Grand Prize tickets are \$10.00 each or 3/\$20.00. If you cannot attend the Banquet and would like to support WNY Trout Unlimited, please send your donation to: WNY Trout Unlimited, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna, NY 14218. I will gladly enter you in the Grand Prize drawing, and the winner need not be present. If you need more information, please contact me at 826-4178 or [LBIGAJ001@roadrunner.com](mailto:LBIGAJ001@roadrunner.com). Thank you in advance for your continued support. Our thanks to Lee and Century Printing for donating ticket printing again this year and to Richard Schroeder and Andrew Fronckowiak for their banquet donations. .

Shows: The WNY Sport and Travel Expo will take place March 12 through 15, 2009. If you would like to help with the booth, please let me know. (Set up is on March 11.) We will be fly-tying with kids on Sunday, March 15, noon to 4pm.

Finally, thanks to Dave Unetich, Bill Jedlicka, and Craig Zink for helping to tie forty Sucker Spawn flies at the January WNYTU meeting. Len.

- **Wisoy Diary Program:** During 2009, the DEC Region 9 Fisheries Office will be running an angler diary program for Wisoy Creek in Allegany and Wyoming Counties and is currently looking for anglers to keep diaries. If you fish Wisoy Creek (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 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. This program duplicates one run in 2006 and will be used in conjunction with a late-summer electrofishing survey to evaluate the fishery's overall quality. In 2006, over 115 anglers signed up for the program.
- **Nomination for Awards:** As the annual Banquet approaches, it is a good time to think about honoring those who have made substantial contributions to the success of our WNY TU. If you would like to nominate someone, please submit the name to our Awards Chairman, Dave Tooke, at 1054 Flanders Ct., East Amherst, N.Y. 14051 (716-688-7492).

- June 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. 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).
- Friends of the WNY Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Day, February 28, 2009.** Friends of the WNY Great Lakes will be sponsoring the third annual Fish and Wildlife Day on Saturday, February 28, 2009. The event will be held from 9am to 2pm at the LaSalle Sportsman's Club, 2445 Tuscarora Road, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Registration begins at 8am and is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students. Pre-registration is required. If you have any questions about the Fish and Wildlife Day, please contact Randy Oppenheimer at 858-3780 or Kofi Fynn-Aikins at 691-5456, ext. 129, or check out [www.friendsofthelowergreatlakes.org](http://www.friendsofthelowergreatlakes.org).
- 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).
- Did You Know?** Trout have an astonishing sense of smell, at least for chemicals important to their survival. Take amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, for example. A trout's olfactory ability is so finely developed that it can detect one molecule of amino acid even when diluted in ten billion molecules of water. It is not surprising that pollutants can adversely affect such a sensitive system. A recent article in the Victoria (B.C.) "Times Colonist" describes a study that documents the negative impact of pesticides on salmonid olfactory capacity. You can see it at <http://www2.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=0c10a538-fa04-4944-81d6-6823214d67b0>.
- Here's More:** Trout have curious capacities via other senses, as well. Consider this: It may be that fish can see what is on the other side of opaque objects. Can you figure out how this could happen? Here's a clue: It's not both smoke and mirrors. (Your obedient Editor hopes to present an "entertainment", later in the spring, on the sensory/perceptual world of trout – with a few comments on the perceptual world of the aging fly fisher. The clue will become clear then.)
- Call For Articles:** Have a story tell about on-stream experiences, cold water fisheries conservation, improving one's fishing skills, understanding salmonids, etc.? Why not send it 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).)

- **WNY TU Treasurer's Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2009. (Submitted by Anthony Messina):**

Balance at 01/01/2009	(Checking Account)	\$723.62
Inflows:		
	Total Inflows:	\$0.00
Outflows: Newsletter Printing	\$122.00	
Fly-tying	\$40.75	
Newsletter Postage	\$189.00	
	Total Outflows:	\$351.75
Balance at 01/31/2009	(Checking Account)	\$371.87

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Balance at 01/01/2009	(Money Market Account)	\$11,441.47
Inflows: Interest		\$1.19
Outflows:		\$0.00
Balance at 01/31/2009	(Money Market Account)	\$11,442.66

(All funds on deposit at Bank of America)



**Running Water Does Its Thing on McIntosh Brook.**

Mr. Scott Cornett, Fisheries Biologist with Region 9 DEC, has kindly supplied these photos (next page) of restoration sites 3 and 6 on McIntosh Brook in Allegany State Park. The pictures were taken following the thaw and rain which occurred during the week of February 9. As those of you who had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Cornett's presentation during our October, 2008, Chapter meeting may recall, the purpose of the log and stone structures installed last summer on McIntosh Brook is to utilize the action of running water to create pools for brook trout. The logs and stones are placed in such a way that the water, when flowing over them, scours out deep areas in the stream bottom. Mr. Cornett pointed out that the scouring action is maximized when the stream has reached a "bank full" condition. While McIntosh Brook is not at this point in the photos, the water is quite high and does appear to be "doing its thing". (Our thanks to Scott for sharing the photos and to Chuck Godfrey for sending them to me.)

McIntosh Brook – Site 6



McIntosh Brook-Site 3



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ANNUAL FUND RAISING BANQUET**

**WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER**

**SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2009**

**LUCARELLI'S BANQUET CENTER  
1830 Abbott Rd  
Lackawanna, NY 14218  
(716-824-8711)**

**\*TICKETS COST \$30.00/PERSON\***

**\*8 OR MORE TICKETS RESERVES A TABLE\***

- **6:00 PM CASH BAR/COCKTAIL HOUR**
- **7:00 PM BUFFET STYLE DINNER**
  
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**FOR TICKET INFO CONTACT:**

**LEN BIGAJ  
58 BALEN DRIVE  
LACKAWANNA, NY 14218  
(716)-826-4178**

**\*\*\*ALSO AT OAK ORCHARD FLY SHOP, AND ORVIS SHOP AT EASTERN HILLS MALL\*\*\***