

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) February, 2012

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying will start at 6pm. Please bring black thread, because we will be tying ants and beetles.

Our speaker, for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting, will be Mr. Mike Wilkinson, Aquatic Biologist with Region 9, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He will be discussing trout and salmon management in Lake Ontario tributaries and the lower Niagara River as well as associated cold water fisheries opportunities. Please join us.

President’s Report

Greetings Fellow TUers,

I want to thank Scott Cornett and Jim Zanett, from the Region 9 DEC Allegany office, for their presentation on the “state of our streams” and electro-shocking results. We have come to anticipate their presence at our January meeting. We never want to take that for granted. Each year, they come up with a better program containing information about the resources we collectively protect. The angler diary program is still available to those willing to participate and is a valuable tool in DEC’s resource management. Please consider taking part in it.

February's guest speaker at our chapter meeting will be Mike Wilkinson, Aquatic Biologist, NYSDEC, Region 9. He will be presenting information regarding Lake Ontario tributaries/Lower Niagara River trout and salmon management and associated coldwater fishing opportunities.

NYSDEC has announced proposed changes to freshwater sport fishing regulations. They will accept public comments on the proposals through April 2, 2012. The proposals are many. However, a few that might concern salmonid conservationists are: The Upper Niagara size limit, Ischua Creek, ice fishing on stocked trout lakes in Allegany, Niagara, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Erie and Cattaraugus counties, and a draft regulation more clearly specifying that attempting to take fish by snagging is prohibited. There are many more proposals, but these appear to be those which would impact resources in our region.

To see the entire text of the draft regulations, as well as instructions for submitting comments, please go to DEC's website at: www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/propregulations.html. Comments on the proposals can be sent via e-mail to fishregs@gw.dec.state.ny.us, or mailed to Shaun Keeler, New York State DEC, Bureau of Fisheries, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753. As most of you know, angling regulations are only re-written every two years. I would encourage you to review the proposals and to become involved in the review process.

This is the last newsletter before the Annual Fund Raising and Awards Banquet. Len Bigaj (see the flyer at the end of the newsletter) has tickets available for both the raffle and the dinner. Please don't wait for the last minute to reserve your tickets. Planning the dinner is a vital part of this banquet as well. The banquet is by far our biggest fund raiser of the year. It is also an appropriate time for recognition of individuals who have contributed to the community and to cold water resource conservation. The award nominations deadline for submission is March 11, 2011, the last day of the Sportsman Show. Submissions should be in e-mail form and sent to Dave Tooke or myself. Len Bigaj has assured me that this will be his last year as banquet chairman. I'm hopeful that a few members will step up and form a banquet committee.

The Erie Promotions Sportsman Show and Travel Expo starts on Thursday, March 8, 2012, and ends on Sunday, March 11, 2011. We are again hosting a youth fly tying activity from Noon to 4pm on Sunday. Volunteers are needed to help with staffing the booth throughout the show as well as with the youth fly tying. Last year's youth tying activity was a huge success. This year, we will have a drawing, at no cost to the participant, for an L.L. Bean Youth Fly Rod Outfit and Youth Fly Vest.

Many of you will remember that, years ago, we did not have a "regular" membership meeting in March because of the banquet. We are going back to that tradition. The "membership" meeting will be on Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Lucarelli's Banquet Center, 1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218. See the flyer in this edition of the newsletter.

We ALL live downstream. Please come out and support YOUR local chapter, become involved.

See you at the meeting.

Gary Coons, WNYTU Chapter President.

Announcements

- **A Report from Len Bigaj:**

Shows: The next show will be the W.N.Y. Sport and Travel Expo, March 8 through 11, 2012. Please let me know if you would like to help out with staffing the booth or fly tying with the kids (March 11).

Project Healing Waters: We had a great turn-out of Vets at our fly tying session in February and a great turn-out of T.U. volunteers to help. The next session will be on March 8, 2012, at 6 p.m. I cannot be there, because I will be at the sportsmen show. Dave Bullman will be taking care of the V.A. event. Thanks for all your help with this great project. Len.

Annual Banquet: The 2012 Banquet will be held at Lucarelli’s Banquet Center, 1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, N.Y., on March 24. Once again, we would like to thank Century Printing for donating the banquet and grand prize tickets. We are pre-selling our grand prize tickets for a Dell i3-4GF laptop and, as a second prize, a 7.5ft., 5wt. custom-built TU fly rod. Prize tickets are \$10.00 each, or three for \$20.00. If you cannot attend the banquet but would like to support your TU chapter by purchasing the raffle tickets, please send your TU donation to Len Bigaj, 58 Balen Drive, Lackawanna, N.Y. 14218. Please try to support your local chapter by attending the banquet, which is our most important fundraiser of the year. The banquet tickets are \$30.00 each. I will have tickets at chapter meetings, and they are also available at the Oak Orchard and Orvis Fly Shops. Please note that, because of extensive fees and new bank regulations, we will no longer be able to accept charge cards at the banquet. We apologize for the inconvenience. And, finally, please remember that we are still looking for a new Banquet Chairman for 2013. Thanks to all, Len. (Ed. Note: NEWS FLASH – Just as this newsletter is being composed, Mr. Bigaj notifies me that, again this year, Mr. George Klemens and Ms. Judi Shelton are donating, to the Banquet, time at their fantastic place in Montana. I hope to have more details in the near future. Thanks George and Judi!)

- Treasurer’s Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2012 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina):

		prior period thru 12/31/11	this period thru 01/31/12
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2011	\$1,743.28	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2012		\$697.45
INFLOWS:	50/50 DRAWING	\$66.00	\$95.00
	BANK REIMBURSEMENT	\$0.01	
	HOLIDAY RAFFLE	\$100.00	
	TRANSFER FROM MONEY MARKET ACCT.		\$500.00
	TU REBATES		\$15.00
	TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$166.01	\$610.00
OUTFLOWS:	MONTHLY MEETING	\$70.00	\$70.00
	50/50 DRAWING PRIZE	\$33.00	\$48.00
	NEWSLETTER POSTAGE		\$489.50
	SHOWS		
	FLY-TYING SUPPLIES	\$19.58	\$31.02
	NEWSLETTER PRINTING	\$146.40	\$146.40
	STREAM PROJECTS	\$140.09	
	TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM	\$352.50	
	INSURANCE	\$150.00	
	HOLIDAY PARTY	\$300.27	

	MEMBERSHIP			\$90.00
	TRAVEL			\$63.50
	DONATION			\$70.00
		TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$1,211.84	\$1,008.42
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2011		\$697.45	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2012			\$299.03

			prior period	this period
			thru 12/31/11	thru 01/31/12
BALANCE AT	NOVEMBER 1, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$22,192.31	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 1, 2012			\$22,195.28
INFLOWS:	INTEREST		\$2.97	\$1.50
OUTFLOWS:	TRANSFER TO CHECKING ACCT.		\$0.00	\$500.00
BALANCE AT	DECEMBER 31, 2011	(MONEY MKT ACCT)	\$22,195.28	
BALANCE AT	JANUARY 31, 2012			\$21,696.78



Articles

Components of a Healthy Stream: An Outline By Russell Shefrin

As I mentioned in our November, 2011, newsletter, a great learning experience is presented by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in their on-line program, "Healthy Rivers: A Water Course": <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/healthyrivers/course/home.htm>. To whet (ha, ha) your appetite for looking at the course, I have decided to provide, in the next few issues of our newsletter, a highly abbreviated outline. Please note that this is my version of a course outline, not that provided by the program developers. Any errors in it are mine and are no reflection on the Minnesota DNR. In many places, I have paraphrased the wording in the course.

"Healthy Rivers: A Water Course" defines five components of a healthy stream. It should be kept in mind that these components interact, meaning that changes in one can impact the others. The five components, into which the course is divided, are:

1. Flow (Hydrology).
2. Shape (Geomorphology).
3. Connections (Connectivity).
4. Water Quality.
5. Life (Biology).

Today's outline will focus on component number one, "Flow":

- For purposes of understanding stream dynamics, hydrology (flow) refers to the "distribution and movement of water through the stream and its flood plain and tributaries". It is important to understand a stream's hydrology because it determines many characteristics of a river, including its appearance, behavior, and ability to support life.
- The water that creates our streams originates in evaporation from the ocean (and from other bodies of water) as well as transpiration, etc. As the water vapor condenses, it falls back to earth where it replenishes streams directly by falling into them or by surface run-off or via underground flows. Eventually, water finds its way back to the oceans or to the organisms that transpire/respire it, and the "hydrologic cycle" repeats.
- One way to categorize streams is in terms of their "order" which begins with "first order" and goes up from there. When two first order streams merge, they create a second order stream, and so it goes. First order watercourses are just trickles. Second or third order streams are frequented by fly fishers, as are fourth or fifth order streams, though the latter likely will require waders and might have to be shared with canoeists. A great river, such as the Mississippi near its mouth, would be tenth order.
- Factors which affect the timing, rate, and volume of flow include:
 1. Climate (long term patterns of snow, rainfall, dry periods, etc.) Seasonal variability is a natural part of a stream's ecosystem. Furthermore, a stream which receives its water mostly from ground water will have a different seasonal pattern than one whose water comes from surface runoff. Bank high flows play a large role in developing the shape of a river, in flushing sediment, in signaling migration, etc. Artificial manipulation of seasonal high flows can alter channel maintaining dynamics.
 2. Precipitation.
 3. Evaporation.
 4. Transpiration.
 5. Vegetation (which can slow run-off into streams, etc.)
 6. Geology
 7. Land Use (e.g., plowing, paving, etc.)
 8. Soil
- Variables of Hydrology. Flow can change in several "directions". They are:
 1. Longitudinal - the movement of water down the river, from headwaters to mouth.
 2. Lateral – the interchange of water between the channel and its flood plain.
 3. Vertical – the (surprising significance of) flow of water between the stream and underlying soil.
 4. Chronological – the variation of flow over time.

Want to go deeper? Check out <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/healthyivers/course/home.htm>. Next issue, I hope to outline the course's number two component, "Shape" (Geomorphology). Let me know you if you find this sort of thing to be helpful.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

LUCARELLI'S BANQUET FACILITY

LACKAWANNA, NY

\$30 TICKET INCLUDES: BUFFET DINNER, 10 BUCKET
RAFFLE TICKETS.

FOR MORE PRIZE INFO AND FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

LEN BIGAJ

(716) 826-4178

****Tickets also available at Orvis Eastern Hills Mall and Oak
Orchard Fly Shop****

Purchase your Grand Prize tickets \$10 per ticket, \$20 for 3 tickets. Winner's choice of:

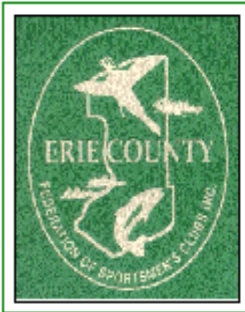
Laptop Computer

Fly Rod and Reel

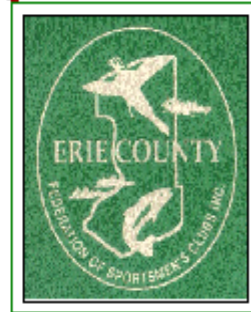


Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization with the mission to: conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen



Annual Banquet & Awards Dinner



Date: Saturday, March 3, 2012
6:00 PM - Social Hour (**Open bar All Night**)
7:00 PM – Sit Down Dinner

Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall
2735 Union Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

\$40 Per Ticket - \$70 Per Couple

For Ticket and Program ad information please contact:

Dave Smyczynski – 716-949-9483; brador7@hotmail.com

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Great Silent Auction, Great Prizes!!**

Please join us to promote Conservation Youth Scholarships, 4-H Pheasant Raising Programs, Kids Fishing Clinics, Outdoors Conservation, and to Honor Individuals for Work in Conservation.

Enjoy the Open Bar All Night

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