

TROUT TALK

The Official Newsletter of Western New York Trout Unlimited (www.wnytroutunlimited.org) February, 2013

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Next WNY TU Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 7:30 pm at the Donovan American Legion Post, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, New York. Fly tying starts at 6 p.m. Please bring gray thread, because we will be tying Musky Nymphs.

At press time, we do not have the name of the speaker and the topic for the “entertainment” portion of the meeting. When this information becomes available, we will try to disseminate it to those on the electronic mailing list.

President’s Report:

On February 19th, **Gary Coons** and I met with **Dennis Edell** and **Brian Green**, of the Canadian TU Niagara Chapter, to discuss the upcoming symposium which will take place at Niagara-on-the-Lake on May 3, 4, and 5, 2013. **Chris Wood**, TU President, will be the keynote speaker at the banquet to be held on the evening of May 4. Our colleagues in the Canadian Niagara Chapter have asked us to participate by making a presentation during the seminars. The symposium promises to be an excellent opportunity to share information. More details about it will be passed on to the membership as soon as they become available.

The Army Corps of Engineers assessment of Scoby Dam is now available. The report outlines four possible scenarios that could be used in dealing with the issue of fish passage. The important thing to note is that the first scenario is to do nothing. However, this only concerns fish passage and does not address the structural issues

facing the viability of the dam. Doing nothing will not be an option. The dam's breaching would be a calamity. I encourage everyone to read the report in order to have the best information before the comment period opens. (Ed. Note: Please see the link, below, in the announcement from **Mr. Don Kwiatkowski**.)

I take great pleasure in announcing that **Diane Maciejewski** (aka Dee) former president of Trout Unlimited, Western New York Chapter, will be inducted into the New York State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame this year. It is an honor which Diane richly deserves after many years of work concerning cold water fisheries. Congratulations Dee!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Trout Unlimited Banquet on March 23, 2013, at Lucarelli's. Please join us!

Antoinette Grote, Chapter President.

Announcements

- **A Report from Mr. Len Bigaj:**

Shows: The Western New York Sports and Travel Expo will take place from March 7 through March 10, 2013. The hours are: Thursday, March 7, 12pm to 9pm; Friday, March 8, 12pm to 9pm; Saturday, March 9, 10am to 8pm, and Sunday, March 10, 10am to 5pm. On Sunday, we will be tying flies with the youngsters from noon until 4pm. We will need your help in staffing the booth and for the fly tying with the kids. I will have a sign-up sheet at our meetings, or you can call me at 826-4178. This year, our booth has been moved to #36. For more on the Expo, check out www.sportandtravelexpo.com.

Project Healing Waters: We will be fly tying with the veterans at the V.A. on 2/21/2013; 3/14/2013; and 4/11/2013. The start time is 6pm; and the location is Freedom Hall, third floor. If you would like to help, just show up or give me a call. Thanks, Len.

- **The Army Corps of Engineers Scoby Dam Scoping Document:** Salmon – Steelhead Committee Chairman, **Mr. Don Kwiatkowski**, reports the WNY TU Board of Directors met, on February 12, 2013, to discuss the ACE plan mentioned in **Ms. Antoinette Grote's** message. The BOD voted to support the proposed USACE Fish Passage Alternative #2 as outlined in the Scoping Document. This option will, therefore, be the Chapter's preferred recommendation. (Mr. Kwiatkowski reminds us that the Scoping Document represents only a study as to the feasibility of such a project.) The ACE document can be accessed at <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicReviewDocuments.aspx>.
- **Fund Raising:** **Mr. Bill Jedlicka**, who has been diligently prospecting for banquet contributors, would like to acknowledge the sponsors and supporters to date. They include:
 - “Trophy Level (\$1000 and up) Sponsor”: **Praxair**.
 - “Steelhead Level (\$500 - \$999): **Bass Pro Shops – Auburn Store; Geico; Oak Orchard Fly Shop; Orvis; Parkview Health Services**.
 - “Brookie Level (\$250 - \$499) Sponsor”: **Simms**.
 - “Rainbow Level (\$100 - \$249) Sponsor: **Aries Transportation; Bill and Jill Jedlicka; Cattaraugus Creek Outfitters; CHOTA, Gene Romanyshyn; Seneca Gaming Corporation**.
 - “Emerger Level (\$50 - \$99) Sponsor”: **Above and Beyond Hair Studio; Delta Sonic; George Welsh; Niagara Gun Range, Patagonia**.

This year's annual banquet, one of our chapter's most important fundraising events, will take place on **Saturday, March 23, 2013, at Lucarelli's Banquet Center, 1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, N.Y.** A cash bar opens at 6 pm, and the Dinner Buffet begins at 7 pm. An announcement is included in the newsletter. Please attend.

- **Treasurer's Report for the Period Ended January 31, 2013 (Submitted by Mr. Anthony Messina, Treasurer):**

	prior period thru 12/31/12	this period thru 01/31/13
(CHECKING ACCT)		
NOVEMBER 1, 2012	\$1,012.65	
JANUARY 1, 2013		\$623.18
50/50 DRAWING	\$71.00	\$121.00
DONATION	\$36.00	
HOLIDAY RAFFLE	\$41.00	
SHOWS		\$1,331.00
Void Check #1224 (5/31/11)		\$300.00
TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$148.00	\$1,752.00
50/50 DRAWING PRIZE	\$36.00	\$61.00
TRAVEL	\$98.75	
MONTHLY MEETING	\$70.00	\$70.00
HOLIDAY PARTY	\$332.72	
NEWSLETTER PRINTING		\$191.00
DONATION		\$140.00
OUTGOING PRES. RECOGNITION		\$125.00
SHOWS		\$236.37
TOTAL OUTFLOWS:	\$537.47	\$823.37
DECEMBER 31, 2012	\$623.18	
JANUARY 31, 2013		\$1,551.81
(MONEY MKT ACCT)		
NOVEMBER 1, 2012	\$26,010.80	
JANUARY 1, 2013		\$26,012.56

INTEREST	\$1.76	\$0.88
TOTAL INFLOWS:	\$1.76	\$0.88
NONE	\$0.00	\$0.00
DECEMBER 31, 2012	\$26,012.56	
JANUARY 31, 2013		\$26,013.44



Articles:

Editor’s Note: Beginning with the present edition of “Trout Talk”, we are introducing the first in an exciting series of articles by WNY TU member, Mr. Jeffrey Kohler. As explained in the first installment, which follows, these pieces will focus on fly tying.

**All Tied Up
Vol. 1 February 2013**

By Jeffrey Kohler

This is the time of year when many of us spend a good bit of our fishing time at the tying bench. In fact, it’s very likely to be the only time of year most of us can stand to be away from our favorite streams and rivers. You steelhead guys likely have a vise in the back of the truck for on-the-stream use. The desire to tie one’s own flies comes from several places-availability of patterns, cost, and convenience all play into the equation. But I think it’s mostly due to an ever- increasing interest in what a trout eats and when. Recognizing how the trout’s diet changes with the seasons and the study of stream entomology then become a part of every fishing trip we make. The collection and identification of insects and terrestrials observed while in the field find their way into our notebooks and onto the tying bench, ending with a resultant attempt to create reasonable facsimiles and an understanding of what nature provides for the fish as well as fuel for the next real life encounter with the trout.

This all sounds great until one gets into a pod of selectively feeding fish and realizes there is a lot more to imitating fish food than lashing some fuzz on a hook. The resultant pattern looked good to eat, so it had to work. But, then, the fish had the last laugh!

When I first became interested in fly fishing, I bought a glass rod, some flies and got out to a local stream that had recently been stocked. Little did I know that, 35 years later, I would become like a lot of you with several rods, reels and boxes full of flies. That first vise was an inexpensive (cheap!) little creation from Cabela’s which I still have but somehow can’t stand to use anymore. Someday I’ll give it to one of my grandsons, if I ever have any; and it will become his problem.



Anyway, I hope to use a small corner of our monthly newsletter to encourage those young and not so young members to give fly tying a try. If you decide to get into it, spend a little time with an experienced tier before you run off and start buying stuff-it will save you money and answer a lot of those “how do I” questions. In future columns, I’ll include tips on materials and technique as well as a recipe or two which have proven to be reliable for me on our local waters.

Those old timers-you know who you are- understand that I’m far from the most accomplished tier in our Chapter. There are several members out there who can tie me under the table, if it came right down to it. But these guys are also an unselfish lot. They’ve helped me to learn new patterns and gently critiqued my technique, all while encouraging me to keep on trying something new. Of all these gentlemen, I want to thank Len Bigaj for including me in the tying sessions he hosts for an hour or so before each of our monthly meetings. The group varies in size and talent; but Len picks a pattern, provides the materials, collects everything we end up with, then puts them in boxes and stashes the lot until they go up for sale at the Sportsman Show in the spring or the County Fair in August. All proceeds go to support the Chapter, which is a pretty cool thing if you’re looking for a way to give back. So stop by some evening with your vise, and you’ll be surprised at what you can learn in an hour!

Till next time, I always like to remember Lee Wulff’s advice: “A trout is too beautiful to only catch once”. So please practice Catch and Release-it works!

(In our next issue, Mr. Kohler will explain the ins and outs of tying the famous “Woolly Bugger” pattern. Ed.)

Wiscoy Creek Angler Diary Program, Water Temperature Monitoring and Electrofishing Summary for 2012

By Scott Cornett, Fishery Biologist, NYS – DEC Region 9 Allegany, January, 2013.

Editor’s Note: If you attended our January, 2013, chapter meeting, you were treated to Mr. Scott Cornett’s fascinating presentation on the results of the Wiscoy Creek angler diary program, water temperature monitoring, and electrofishing study. Mr. Cornett has supplied me with the complete report, which is too extensive to include in this newsletter. However, I have taken the liberty of excerpting the “Introduction” and the “Summary” sections. If you would like to see the entire report (which includes terrific photos and graphics), please e-mail me. Assuming I can obtain Mr. Cornett’s authorization, I will then transmit the report to you. Russ Shefrin.

Introduction: During July and August 2012, DEC Region 9 Fisheries staff and many angler volunteers sampled the wild brown trout populations in Wiscoy Creek and two of its major tributaries, Trout Brook and the N. Branch Wiscoy Creek. Fifteen sites were sampled, duplicating efforts in 2006 and 2009 (Figure 1). Several of these sites on Wiscoy Creek had also been sampled from 1978-2001; however, Trout Brook and N. Branch Wiscoy Creek had not been sampled extensively prior to 2006. Additional sites were sampled on the N. Branch Wiscoy Creek as part of a habitat enhancement evaluation and are also reported on below. In conjunction with the fish sampling, a

March-October angler diary program was also conducted for Wiscoy Creek, duplicating ones done in 1997, 2001, 2006 and 2009. Stream temperature monitoring was done at six sites on Wiscoy Creek in the summer of 2012. Tables and figures referenced appear after the text in the order they appear in the text, as well as photos from the fish sampling. Some statistics are included in this report to help put our findings into perspective. DEC Fisheries wishes to thank both the anglers volunteers who contributed extensive effort to help with fish sampling as well as those who kept diaries of their fishing trips in 2012. Without their help we could not have completed this work. Thanks also go to Principal Fish and Wildlife Technician Jim Zanett who did an excellent job running the angler diary program.

Summary: Electrofishing sampling in 2012 indicated that wild brown trout in Wiscoy Creek may still be less abundant than they were in the 1988-2001 time period. However, abundance does seem to be remaining higher than that found in the 1960's and 1970's (generally 200-600 trout/mile). It appears that the reduced population of trout in Wiscoy Creek, or other factors may have allowed more fish to reach older ages and larger sizes. The reduced trout abundance also needs to be kept in perspective. Even with the average abundance dropping to slightly more than 1,000 yearling and older brown trout/mile, Wiscoy Creek still ranks among the best wild brown trout streams in western New York and New York State overall. In 2008, Elm Creek held an estimated 946 brown trout/mile, while in 2007 Clear Creek (Arcade) had 617 brown trout/mile and Lime Lake Outlet had 581 brown trout/mile. In 2010, Clear Creek (Ellington) in Chautauqua County had 663 brown trout/mile and a greatly increased abundance of larger wild brown trout over past surveys. While population estimates were not derived for young-of-year brown trout in Wiscoy Creek or its tributaries due to low capture efficiencies, the actual numbers of young fish captured indicated very strong reproduction in 2012. That is similar to findings in other streams across the region this year. Good reproduction was likely due to a very mild winter in 2011-12, with no winter or spring flooding.

Changes to our electrofishing methodology on Wiscoy Creek, most notably a large increase in the number of sample sites from 10, to 40 or more, would likely decrease the overall variation in trout abundance between sampling sites and thus give us more ability to detect fine-scale changes in trout populations. Similarly, sampling more frequently - every one or two years - and making more sampling runs - three instead of two - might also lower variability. However, given current and foreseeable staffing levels, that kind of sampling effort will not be possible, so we will have to continue to do the best we can with our current levels of sampling effort on Wiscoy Creek.

Overall, angler diarist catch rates on Wiscoy Creek in 2012 were lower than in the 1997-2006 diarist programs, but higher than in 2009. Diarist catch rates in individual sections of the stream did not always correlate with electrofishing abundance, as they did in the 1997-2006 diary programs. Although angler diarists tend to have higher catch rates than the average angler, a catch rate of 1.13 trout/hour is very good for wild brown trout and indicates Wiscoy Creek supports a quality fishery, especially for skilled anglers.

The continued decline in participation in the diary program reduced our ability to determine, with precision, several aspects of angler use and catch. Participation in the diary program peaked in 1997 and 2001 and declined steadily with each succeeding diary program (Table 16). While we are still collecting valuable, low cost data, we are no longer able to draw as much precise information on the fishery as in the first three years of the program.

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And Now, An Important Announcement!.....

WNY TROUT UNLIMITED ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Saturday, March 23, 2013

6:00 pm Cash Bar/7:00 pm Dinner Buffet

Lucarelli's Banquet Center

1830 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, NY

Tickets to the event: \$30.00

Grand Prize Drawing Tickets: \$10.00 or 3 for \$20.00

Winners do not have to be present to win!

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

1ST: IPAD

2ND: KAYAK PACKAGE

3RD: FLY ROD

In addition to Grand Prizes, there will be Door Prizes, Bucket Raffles, Silent Auctions and more!

Tickets available at Oak Orchard Fly Shop and Orvis in Eastern Hills Mall.

Ticket Info/Questions/Comments to: wnytubanquet@gmail.com